

40,000 protest in Red Square

Gorbachov is jeered at May Day parade

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

AN ATTEMPT by the new Moscow City Council to bring controlled democracy to the city's May Day parade backfired badly yesterday when President Gorbachov led the official party from the Lenin mausoleum amid derisive whistles and shouts of "shame".

Some 40,000 demonstrators waved banners and placards condemning the Communist leadership and Mr Gorbachov personally, calling for an end to the economic blockade on Lithuania and supporting the radical Mr Boris Yeltsin for president. There were chants of support for the new Mayor of Moscow, the radical economist Mr Gavril Popov, who was with the presidential party, and calls for the Politburo to resign en bloc.

The demonstrators, augmented by several thousand police, KGB and plain-clothes militia, had paraded into Red Square for the second part of what was planned as a double May Day parade. The first part, organized by the official trade unions, passed off quietly and after it finished the official party remained on top of the Lenin mausoleum for the second — organized by Moscow's public bodies and informal political groups.

The double-parade had been recommended by the city council and sanctioned — as is now obligatory for demonstra-

tions in central Moscow — by the Council of Ministers, apparently to pre-empt a bigger, unofficial demonstration that might overwhelm the main event in Red Square.

Initially it seemed that the police did not intend to let the second parade to stop in the square. But the demonstrators stood their ground and turned — as had the trade union demonstrators at the first parade — to face the mausoleum, expecting speeches. After 10 minutes of continuous barking, the official party left. Soviet television, which had broadcast the demonstration live, stopped its coverage just before the Politburo marched off.

The first demonstration, organized by the official trade unions, had been unusually low-key. Marchers were organized for the first time according to profession and not formally introduced on entering the square, as in previous years. There was little of the usual cheering.

Short speeches from local and national trade union leaders referred to the country's economic crisis and expressed trepidation about the effect on workers' living standards of the reform programme. Banners, clearly ordered and distributed by the trade unions, urged price controls, no unemployment and called for an end to economic "experiments".

Security was strict all day, with thousands of extra police and soldiers drafted into the city. Checks began at the outermost ring road and ended with no fewer than five checks on identity papers and invitation cards for those approaching Red Square.

Interior Ministry troops and regular soldiers were much in evidence, and all possible entrances to the square were barricaded with lorries and buses immediately after each group of demonstrators had been allowed through.

Witnesses disagreed about whether President Gorbachov's exit had been planned to coincide with the end of television coverage or came in response to the barracking and hostile banners. The demonstrators interpreted the leaders' departure as a humiliation, and that version rapidly gained currency.

Later, at another unofficial demonstration, one of Moscow's anti-establishment folk heroes, Mr Telman Gdylan, warned a crowd of several thousand people that the "humiliation" of the leader-

ship might rebound. "You have not won," he said. "You have lost. Today we realized who we are up against — weak, cowardly politicians who turned their backs on the people. But they won't forgive us and will take their revenge."

One possible form of "revenge" might be the removal of the Moscow party leaders and further restrictions on the city council's authority.

Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, May Day parades were either abandoned or turned into local rallies for different political groupings. Interfax, the semi-official agency reported that official parades were dropped in Leningrad, the Baltic republics and the Transcaucasus, although unofficial processions and rallies passed off peacefully. In Latvia, which is expected to declare its independence after a Supreme Soviet meeting tomorrow, pro-Soviet demonstrators marched through Riga carrying placards reading "No to the Lithuanian variant".

Throughout Eastern Europe, the first May Day since last year's sweeping changes were marked by solidarity with democracy, taunts against old communist-worker alliances and jockeying for support in coming elections. About 50,000 people crossed from East to West Berlin to rally outside the Reichstag, while in Poland rival political groups held their own celebrations to mark the workers' holiday, there being no official parades.

But in Cuba, the spectacular demonstration went ahead as usual with President Castro, wearing his familiar olive-green uniform and cap, watching from binoculars from a reviewing stand as more than half a million workers, soldiers and young people carrying flags and banners marched through Havana's Revolution Square to the sound of revolutionary songs blaring out from dozens of loudspeakers. Cuban workers' leaders said about three million people were involved in similar parades across the island.

In Istanbul, where the Turkish Government had banned May Day marches, two people were shot and wounded and 600 were arrested in clashes between demonstrators and police.

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May Day reports, page 9
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Tradition dawns, page 19

Temperatures set a record for May Day

By David Young

BRITAIN yesterday had its hottest May Day since records began in 1875. Kinross, near Inverness, reached 27°C (81°F), beating the previous best of 26.7°C, recorded at St James's Park, London, in 1966.

The forecast is that the weather will continue dry and warm for the rest of the week, with temperatures in the South-east again rising to around 24°C (75°F). Fears of an early start to summer smog in London receded yesterday, according to the Department of the Environment's monitoring service, but city air pollution is being exported to

rural areas of the South-east, according to regional stations.

The independent London Scientific Service said pollutants that accumulated on Sunday and Monday above safety limits recommended by the World Health Organization were being dispersed with a strengthening of winds.

A two-year-old girl drowned in a pool at her home in Hampshire yesterday, and in Sussex a youth aged 19 drowned in a reservoir. In Essex a man is feared to have drowned while swimming.

Forecast, page 24



Defiant in the shadow of Marx, Engels and Lenin, opposition demonstrators carry a giant crucifix through Red Square for a May Day parade that ended with President Gorbachov being jeered from the Lenin mausoleum

Pope to beatify 'example for youth'

From Richard Bassett Rome

THE Vatican will depart from the traditional view that saints should be serious, strait-laced individuals, without a sense of humour, when the Pope beatifies Pier Giorgio Frassati later this month.

Pier Giorgio was a far cry from the ecclesiastical stiffness and melancholy philosophies usually associated with candidates for beatification, the first step before canonization and sainthood.

He died in Turin in 1925, aged 24, not before, however, *The Times* in a dispatch from its Milan correspondent in the early 1920s had praised "Signor Pier Giorgio Frassati" for defending his father from an attack by Italian fascists. "The mob was seen off by this energetic young man's timely intervention," *The Times* wrote.

This was not Frassati's only connection with the press. His father was the founder and owner of *La Stampa*, the Italian daily. Deeply opposed to Mussolini's blackshirts, his house was often the target of demonstrators.

Born into a privileged and wealthy family, Frassati lived his life to the fullest, his good looks attracting countless female admirers. Happiest scaling a mountain or organizing a party — one picture has him clutching a whisky bottle and wearing a paper hat — he was at first glance the archetypal young blade of the 1920s.

"He was the quintessential Continued on page 24, col 4

Thatcher silent on poll tax changes

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MRS Margaret Thatcher refused to indicate in the Commons yesterday whether there would be legislation in the present session of Parliament to amend the poll tax.

Challenged by Mr Neil Kinnock to do so, she would say only that the Government would make an announcement when it was ready. Government sources said later that the question of whether or not legislation would be brought forward had to await the outcome of the review of the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher made it plain that the basic principle of the tax was not being reviewed. Ministers, she said, were looking to see if any adjustments were needed. That had been signalled before, not least in last Wednesday's debate, and there was no surprise. Any confusion, she argued, existed only in the minds of high-sounding Labour councils.

Ministers were working yesterday to lower expectations of big changes. Mr Kenneth

Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, said in Bradford: "The review is nothing new. We have all talked about it... and it is to be expected with such a wide-ranging reform of local government finance."

"We now know that seven out of 10 people in the country believe that everybody should pay towards the cost of local services. And that 50 per cent of people think local authorities should be responsible for the community charge."

In the Commons yesterday Mrs Thatcher was asked by Dr David Owen, the leader of the SDP, if the review options included the introduction of banding according to income. In reply Mrs Thatcher said only that there were generous rebates for those who could not afford to pay and that transitional relief was available for those faced with sharp increases in charges.

Prime Minister's Question Time was exclusively devoted to the subject of the poll tax, and it was reduced to a ritualized farce when a combative Mrs Thatcher led a chorus of Tory backbenchers in shouted denunciations of Labour local authorities in answer to a clearly pre-arranged request to name the five local authorities with the worst record on education, the highest number of empty council houses and the highest level of rent arrears.

As the Prime Minister, clearly primed in advance with her detailed reply, went through the lists of councils concerned, Tory backbenchers shouted "Labour" after each one named.

Thames protest, page 2
Parliament, page 8

Atlantic's liabilities

By Angela Mackay

ATLANTIC Computers, put into effective receivership two weeks ago by its parent, British and Commonwealth, has liabilities of between £500 million and £1,000 million. Price Waterhouse, the administrators appointed to Atlantic, said yesterday that unsecured creditors' chances of receiving a payout were grim. They spoke of "inevitable liquidation".

Ferranti International, an apparent victim of corporate fraud, said it expected to write off about £200 million.

Full reports, page 25

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* Research findings as reported in the Financial Times.



MBA



Lou Macari in tax probe

Mr Lou Macari, the former manager of Swindon Town, and three other men connected with the Second Division club were last night being interviewed in connection with suspected income tax offences.

Mr Macari, Mr Brian Hillier, the former chairman, Mr Colin Calderwood, the club captain, and Mr Vincent Farrer, the club's former accountant, were all arrested yesterday after prolonged investigations. Page 48

Unfit for trial

A man accused of killing one man and injuring 17 people in a rampage with a shotgun at Monkseaton, Tyne and Wear, is unfit to stand trial, a jury at Newcastle Crown Court decided yesterday. Robert Sartin, aged 23, was remanded to a special hospital. Page 3

Mid-East hope

Iran and Syria are now under strong economic pressure to end their feuds with the West and the warmer atmosphere generated by hostage releases could lead to increased trade. Page 10

Holiday stress

A business survey has concluded that executives are reluctant to take their full holiday entitlement, either because they want to be considered indispensable or because a fortnight with the family is more stressful than staying at work. Page 17

Jobs warning

Employment in manufacturing industry is set to fall by an average of 18,000 a month over the next three months as companies try to protect profits and market share against a strong rise in costs, the CBI says in its quarterly industrial trends survey. Page 25

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Gummer goes tooth and claw for vegetarians

By Michael Hornsby Agriculture Correspondent



Mr Gummer: "We are masters of the fowls"

VEGETARIANISM is a "wholly unnatural" practice without support in biblical teaching, according to Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Addressing an audience at Butchers' Hall in the City yesterday Mr Gummer, who is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, said: "I consider meat to be an essential part of the diet. The Bible tells us that we are masters of the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field, and we very properly eat them."

"If the Almighty had wanted us to have three stomachs (like grass-eating cattle), I am sure he could have arranged it, but he chose to make us omnivores instead." Mr Gummer, speaking at the biennial luncheon of the International Meat Trade Association, drew enthu-

siastic applause from an audience mainly of butchers and meat merchants. He said he was tired of reading in the press about the 10 per cent of the population who had turned vegetarian or reduced their meat intake. "I want to see more articles about the sensible 90 per cent who are still eating meat."

Warning to his theme, he said it was time to go on the offensive against "deeply undemocratic food faddists who want to impose on the rest of us views which come from their own inner psyches." Food was becoming a "religion substitute" which enabled people "to make themselves feel more moral by the diet they choose."

He said he particularly resented "those who encourage children to become vegetarian on grounds which have nothing to do with truth and everything to do with prejudice" — a reference to a video which the Vegetarian Society has

been showing in secondary schools since last December.

Miss Juliet Gellatley, the society's head of youth education, immediately retorted: "It is a totally factual video, and much of the information in it comes from Mr Gummer's own ministry. It looks at the way animals are kept and slaughtered, health and nutrition aspects, and the effect of meat-eating in affluent countries on the developing world, which is forced to grow grain to feed Western animals."

The British Chicken Information Service, meanwhile, reported yesterday that chicken in 1989 was Britain's most popular meat for the second consecutive year, pushing red meat into second place. It said chicken now had 31 per cent of the meat market in volume terms, compared with 29 per cent for beef, 17 for lamb, 16 for pork and 7 per cent for other types of poultry.

RAF denies that missile hit doomed Shackleton

By Kerry Gill

THE Royal Air Force denied yesterday that its Shackleton air defence aircraft, which crashed into a Hebridean hillside killing all 10 crew members, was hit by a missile used in an exercise over the Atlantic.

The last missile used during Exercise Brushfire, in which the Shackleton had taken part, was fired 90 minutes before the aircraft hit the Maolal peak in south-west Harris, the RAF said. "The Shackleton had done its part in the exercise and was doing flight training before returning to base. The exercise had nothing to do with the cause of the tragedy. It is very easy to speculate on the cause of an

accident like this. It is equally totally irresponsible to do so." The Shackleton was returning to its base at RAF Lossiemouth in north-east Scotland when it crashed into the 850 ft hill about a mile from the village of Northton. The 10 bodies were taken to Stornoway, Lewis, for post mortem examination.

Anglo-French "Martel" missiles, designed to simulate Cruise missiles, were fired by Buccaneer long-range strike/attack aircraft during the exercise. The missiles were supposed to be detected by the Shackleton, Nimrods and Nato E3A airborne early warning aircraft, updated versions of which are to replace six Shackletons still in operation.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons defence select committee yesterday that the Shackletons, whose American replacements were scheduled to arrive next year, were extremely valuable. He was speaking in response to a question by Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, who said: "I understand that one of the Shackletons in Manchester space museum was withdrawn from that museum and brought back to service. I understand that age was not a factor in the accident yesterday, but can you give us some assurance that elderly aircraft are likely to be consigned to museums?"

MPs call for vetting of guards

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

STRICTER vetting of contract security guards patrolling British military bases is to be demanded by the Commons defence committee in the wake of last year's bomb attack on the Royal Marines school in Deal, Kent.

The committee will argue that, if the Ministry of Defence wants to continue to use commercial firms to guard 56 sites, a more comprehensive system of screening checks must be run on the past employment record and personal history of their guards.

The committee's report, which has been approved by its members and will be published later this session, also calls for the ministry to replace commercial firms that fail to meet the conditions of their contracts.

MPs were alarmed to find that ministry officials could not guarantee that commercial firms always maintained the same security standards expected of the ministry's own guards. Some firms that failed to comply with their contract conditions had been allowed to carry on even after being given several official warnings.

The cross-party investigation was launched after criticism of the use of a private firm to patrol the Royal Marines school where a terrorist bomb killed 11 men last year. The Ministry of Defence is hoping to reduce its dependence of private firms and instead build up a bigger civilian guard force for use on low security risk sites.

In the defence estimates, the Government is committed to spending an additional £126 million on improving security against terrorist attacks at defence bases.

Mr King replied: "There is no question for a moment that the RAF would consider flying a plane unless it was able to fly. The Shackletons have proved that they are extremely valuable." He denied that they were grounded yesterday. The RAF confirmed they had all been checked and cleared.

No mayday message was received from the stricken plane, which because of its age could not take a black box flight recorder. Half-eaten sandwiches, strewn about wreckage, suggested the accident came as a total surprise to the crew.

Last night, it emerged that the commanding officer of No 8 Squadron and a young flight lieutenant who was scheduled to be married next month, Wing Commander Steve Roncoroni lived with his wife, Jane, at Miltonduff, near Elmer, just a few miles from the base. They have two daughters at school. Mrs Roncoroni is the sister of Mr David Sole, captain of the Scotland rugby team.

The other crew member named was Flight Lieutenant Keith Forbes, aged 26, of Aberdeen.

Michael Evans, page 12
Parliament, page 8

Protesters seize photo opportunity

DENZIL MCNEILLANCE



Protesters in a rowing boat hijacking a photo opportunity set up yesterday by Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, and Lady Porter, the leader of Westminster council.

The Tory campaigners held aloft posters comparing the poll tax in Conservative-controlled Westminster with its neighbour, Labour-controlled Camden, when the group of waterborne

protesters drifted in on the act (David Soper writes).

Even as Mr Hunt posed for photographs on a barge on Regent's Canal, which runs through the two constituencies, he was unaware that close by his drive towards tomorrow's local elections was coming to a complete halt — he suffered the indignity of having his car clamped.

A Metropolitan Police wheel-clamp-

ing unit spotted the offending white Rover in a sidestreet near Regent's Park and, ignoring the protests of the minister's driver, went into action.

Objections to the drama that was adding a £30 unclamping fee and a £16 parking ticket to Conservative Central Office's campaign costs, Mr Hunt headed downstream by boat, where he was picked up by a hurriedly arranged mini-bus.

College sponsor denies 'secret charge on deal'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE principal sponsor of Britain's first "green" City Technology College was accused yesterday of "making a secret commission" of £200,000 from public funds on the purchase of the college's site.

Mr Ivor Revere, a director of Greenleaf Planters, a mail-order plant company, was named in a Commons early day motion tabled yesterday by Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman.

The motion, which called for an independent audit of the financial affairs of the government-backed CTC Trust, said that the alleged commission was "hidden" from officials for three months before being repaid.

The scheme to create an environmental CTC at Brighton collapsed last Thursday when the Government withdrew an offer of £7.2 million in funding for it.

The Commons motion said that Mr Revere had purchased the former Fitzherbert Roman Catholic school, at Woodingdean, Brighton, in September last year for £2.3 million as a site for the new college.

However, Mr Revere is said to have sold it to the CTC Trust for £2.5 million. The

Commons motion refers to this as "a secret commission for himself from public funds of £200,000 which was hidden from the CTC Trust until December 1989".

The motion expresses "deep concern" about financial controls at the CTC Trust and the Department of Education and Science and criticizes Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, for failing to disclose what was going on.

Mr Straw said yesterday that although he had used the early day motion procedure to gain the protection of parliamentary privilege, his allegations were based on ministers' written Commons answers.

On Monday night, Mr MacGregor, in a written reply to a question by Mr Straw, disclosed that Mr Revere had been the initial purchaser of the Brighton site from the local Catholic diocese. He said: "In December 1989, the CTC Trust discovered that the purchase price of £2.5 million included a commission of £200,000 charged by Mr Revere. This was immediately recovered and returned to public funds."

Mr Revere, speaking from his home in East Sussex, said he was not aware of any police

Postal rates likely to rise by end of year

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

POSTAL charges are likely to rise before the end of the year as the Royal Mail faces increased labour costs and shoulders the effects of inflation, which is now running at 8 per cent.

Charges for letters last went up in October last year, with a first class stamp now costing 20p and a second class stamp 15p. In the past charges have gone up over a period from a year to 18 months, but the increased rate of inflation alone is expected to force the Post Office to act this time within a 12-month period.

In addition, a third of the workforce of 50,000 in the Royal Mail have received pay supplements of between £10 and £20 in a drive to retain staff. This has occurred mainly in London and the South-east, with the bill in excess of £50 million.

Trigger points in this deal are where unemployment is running at 5 per cent or less and where staff turnover is above the 15 per cent level. Inflation alone would not quite justify a 2p increase for a first class letter but other cost escalations might push the increase that far.

The Post Office could also argue that over the past five years the cost of a stamp is 11 per cent cheaper in real terms, taking inflation into account. Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, said yesterday that there were no plans at present for increasing charges. He would not be drawn on whether there might be increases by the year end.

He did however unveil the biggest annual improvement by the Royal Mail in service reliability. Independent investigation has shown that in spite of the fast-rising mail volumes and last summer's train strikes, the Royal Mail has improved its delivery service for first class mail by 3 per cent in 12 months. Previously annual improvements have been measured at best by a single percentage point.

Sir Bryan said: "This is a tremendous achievement. A year ago we agreed with our independent watchdog body, the Post Office Users' National Council, a demanding 3 per cent improvement target. We have met the target, with the biggest improvement in a single year."

There was still room for improvement and £1.2 billion would be invested over the next five years aimed at achieving that, he said.

Tories rally to Thatcher over Dublin stand on EC union

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

TORY MPs yesterday backed the Prime Minister's cautious approach on early moves towards European political union, at the Dublin summit last weekend, as Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, launched another strong attack on her stance.

Mrs Thatcher received support in the Commons from the left and right of the party for her warnings against reducing the powers of national parliaments and for achieving a proper definition of what the European Community regards as political union.

In one of her best-received performances in the Commons for some time, Mrs Thatcher spoke against increasing the powers of the European Commission and parliament. She confirmed, however, that the Government would be putting forward proposals for increasing the powers of the European Court of Auditors to improve the financial accountability of the commission. Failure to put a limitation on political union was alarming because it could mean gradually "relinquishing those things which are vital to our parliamentary tradition".

Mr Neil Kinnock described Mrs Thatcher as "a mere spectator, the lame duck of the Community", and in a speech at the London School of Economics last night Mr Heath derided her expressed fears about the future of the monarchy. It was commendable, he said, to be concerned about the future of the Royal family. There was no justification, however, to use them as an excuse to prevent progress towards a united Europe. He said it was "foolish to keep harping on that political union needs to be defined". The Government should play a full and constructive part in negotiations to accelerate closer economic and political union.

Mr Heath's criticisms were not echoed from the Conser-

vative benches in the Commons. From the right there was the customary enthusiastic backing for her defence of sovereignty. But the pro-European wing also welcomed her readiness to play a constructively critical role while agreeing to be a part of the process.

Typical of the Conservative reaction was that of Mr David Howell, chairman of the all-party foreign affairs committee, who said she had been "absolutely right" to seek a clearer definition of what was meant by political union.

Mrs Thatcher said "any more centralisation should be stopped", and that the future of the EC involved implementing things through national parliaments. She accepted that a treaty-revising conference was likely to be set up, but made clear that Britain would be tabling its own proposals on improving the operation of Community institutions.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher was being left out of initiatives taken by other European leaders because she had "put our country on the sidelines and left others to determine the course and the nature of the new Europe".

Rules body sought for social work

A NEW regulatory body should be set up to safeguard standards and restore public confidence in social workers after a series of tragedies involving children, a report published yesterday said (Jill Sherman writes).

A General Social Services Council would register and, if necessary, discipline or deregister social workers, and draw up national standards and a code of ethics, says the report. *Safeguarding Standards*, commissioned by the National Institute for Social Work and the Rowntree Trust.

Community care reforms are increasing social workers' responsibilities, it says.

Poll tax double

Owners of 103 holiday chalets at Elmridge Park Holiday Village, Llangain, Dyfed, have decided to sell their second homes because they cannot afford the £378 poll tax set by Carmarthen district council, in addition to the charge they pay at their main residences.

Savings lost

A woman aged 70 lost savings and jewellery worth £7,500 when her handbag was stolen from a cafe run by the Methodist Church, in Liverpool city centre. The woman was taking £5,000 in cash to her building society to pay off her mortgage when she stopped for a cup of tea.

Metro launch

Rover today launches its most important new model, the new-look Metro. With competition in the British market at its fiercest for years, the revamped Metro is bigger than its predecessor, which accounted for a third of the company's UK sales, and it gets more powerful engines.

Bank shoot-out

Police shot and seriously wounded a man and arrested six others in a gun battle outside a bank in Co Wexford yesterday. The shoot-out happened as a gang tried to escape after holding up the Allied Irish Bank branch in Enniscorthy. Witnesses said at least 15 shots were fired.

£575,000 award

Islington Health Authority agreed to pay Robert Oliver, a quadriplegic boy aged six, £575,000 damages in the High Court yesterday but denied liability for his birth defects at Whittington Hospital, where it is alleged he was left 11 hours too long in the womb as he was believed to be dead.

Body returns

The body of Charles Wilson, the Great Train robber who was killed by a gunman in Spain last week, was brought back to Britain yesterday on an Iberia Airlines flight to Heathrow Airport. Wilson's widow, Patricia, aged 53, and his cousin, Mr Norman Radford, were on the aircraft.

Disaster libel

Undisclosed libel damages paid yesterday by *The Sun* newspaper to Miss Susan Davies, the fire control operator who took the police call for assistance at the Hillsborough disaster, were "considerably more" than the compensation offered to the families of many of the victims, her lawyer said.

Dog attacks girl as MPs vote

By Craig Seton

A GIRL aged four needed 200 stitches in her face after an attack by an Alsatian and a Rottweiler. Plastic surgeons carried out a five-hour operation on Caroline Williams early yesterday as MPs in the Commons voted to reject a compulsory dog registration scheme.

The girl was mauled by the two dogs when they dragged her out of the arms of a neighbour who had picked her up to try to protect her as she played with other children in a field behind her home at Dudley, West Midlands.

The attack happened late on

Monday as MPs debated a proposal for a registration scheme. The motion was defeated by 12 votes after the Government pledged further controls on dogs in spite of a rebellion by 50 Conservative MPs in favour of the measure.

Caroline, of Ivantree Road, Dudley, was operated on in the early hours at the Wordsley Hospital, Kingswinford, where she had been transferred because of the seriousness of the wounds to the left side of her face. A hospital spokeswoman said she was comfortable after the operation.

The Rottweiler and the Alsatian, owned by Mr Aston

Markland, a self-employed welder, are believed to have escaped from a fenced garden before running into the field, 500 yards from Caroline's home.

Their whereabouts were not known yesterday. Police said a court order would be needed to have them destroyed if the owner did not agree to have them put down. Mr Markland was not available for comment yesterday.

Chief Inspector David Smith, of Dudley police, said yesterday: "It is absolutely horrific. This little girl has had five hours on an operating table and in excess of 200 stitches inserted. Ironically, it happened while MPs were debating the subject."

Mr David Bevan, Conservative MP for Birmingham Yardley, who supports dog registration, said the attack gave a frightening urgency to the need for registration.

"This is the most terrible thing and it brings into sharp relief the urgent need for registration. People must not be allowed to have dogs that they cannot control," he said.

90-second cases of home repossessions

By Ruth Gledhill

FAMILIES who fall behind with mortgage payments are losing their homes in court hearings that last an average of 90 seconds, legal campaigners were told yesterday.

Lady Wilcock, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said that courts frequently deprived families of their homes without real evidence of their financial circumstances and whether they could afford to pay off arrears.

She called for a "hearts and minds" reform of county court procedure.

She was speaking at the annual meeting of the North Western Legal Services Committee, a group of legal practitioners which campaigns for improvements in the legal system. She said the NCC looked forward to the Government's consultative paper on reform of the court system for housing cases and called on the Lord Chancellor to implement the recommendations of the Civil Justice Review, published in 1988, in particular with regard to small claims, debt and housing cases.

Building societies said last night that taking defaulters to court was always a last resort. The Halifax said it would look at every avenue before that to try to help people through the problem, and Nationwide Anglia said defaulters were urged to go to their branches, which were most likely to help. Abbey National said its mortgage counsellors were also trained in debt counselling.



Lady Wilcock: Hearts and minds reform needed

Whitehall faces a blow-out in cycling dispute

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

MEMBERS of the biggest Whitehall union are threatening to stage an all-out official strike unless their bicycle allowance is increased by an inflation-breaking 110 per cent.

At present, civil servants receive a pedal cycle allowance of 4.7 pence per mile. In a sombre session, the allowance is determined in top-level talks between high-ranking Treasury officials and leaders of the Council of Civil Service Unions, representing 500,000 civil servants.

Tyre wear, frame strain, brake deterioration and the cost of maintaining front and rear lights are

all taken into account as the Whitehall experts assess what the allowance should be. Last year, members of the 150,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association, the largest and most militant of the Whitehall unions, censured their national executive committee for achieving only a 0.1 per cent increase.

Now, furious London-based cyclists are threatening to stage a "walk-in" unless the allowance is increased to 10p a mile. If the walk-in, which will delay the arrival of work of scores of civil servants, fails to twist the arm of the Treasury, the union's leadership will be asked to sanction all-out strike action.

A motion from the union's British

Library branch, to be debated at the forthcoming conference, says: "We believe that an increase in the pedal cycle allowance in line with the retail price index would be inadequate given the deteriorating state of the roads and would compare unfavourably with what is offered by some other organizations."

The union said: "We only narrowly averted a strike over this issue last year and since then the members have become increasingly angry. Scores of them who do not use cars are eligible for the bike allowance and are angry their mileage allowance is falling far behind inflation."

"For them it is no laughing matter as most of them are low paid and

cannot afford a car. Their bicycle is their main means of transport and it is important they are given enough money to maintain them properly. Unless we get this rise, our message to our members is 'get off your bike'."

The threatened strike comes as Raleigh is preparing to announce it has negotiated contracts to supply bicycles to two environmentally concerned pressure groups. The company believes that pedal power could solve commuting problems in cities where cars move more slowly than a horse and cart. Unless the Treasury and the Whitehall union can move in tandem, however, it might require more than the skills of a Sir Humphrey Appleby to avert a new crisis.

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Peace campaigners in spy escape case win delay to trial

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

TWO peace campaigners yesterday won leave to challenge in the High Court a judge's decision that they must stand trial for their roles in helping the double agent George Blake to escape from prison 24 years ago.

In what is believed to be an unprecedented legal move, Mr Justice Hodgson ordered the trial of Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle to be halted while their application for judicial review goes ahead.

Their trial had been due to start at the Central Criminal Court today. The case raises an important legal issue as to whether or not decisions of Crown Court judges in such circumstances are open to judicial review.

Mr Justice Hodgson said he considered the point "arguable and indeed difficult" and it should be considered at a full judicial review hearing.

The case also raises the issue, increasingly coming before the courts, of whether a delay in bringing a prosecution is such as to amount to an "abuse of process" and therefore to be prejudicial to the defendants.

Mr Pottle, of Northview

Road, Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle, of Hollingwood Lane, Bradford, are seeking to overturn Mr Justice Macpherson of Clun's decision at the Central Criminal Court on Friday not to grant a permanent stay on the trial. They argue it is "oppressive" and "an abuse of the process" of the court to prosecute them 24 years after Blake's escape.

Yesterday Mr Justice Hodgson rejected an invitation from Mr John Laws, Treasury Counsel, who had been asked by the judge to assist the court on the law, to make a ruling that the High Court lacked jurisdiction to hear the case.

Mr Richard Gordon, a barrister and author of *Judicial Review: Law and Procedure*, said the decision to allow the challenge was unusual. It centred on the extent of the High Court's jurisdiction under section 29 (3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and whether such a challenge was prohibited in law or not. It could open the way to similar challenges where courts have refused to stop state prosecutions and could "add a growing impetus to the willingness

of the High Court to curb prosecutions where there has been considerable delay".

Mr Pottle, aged 51, said after the hearing: "We are both extremely pleased. We felt during the hearing last week that Mr Justice Macpherson had made a number of fundamental mistakes in excluding witnesses and a statement from a Special Branch inspector.

"I think that although this will have to go up to appeal, obviously the judge today feels that there are good grounds."

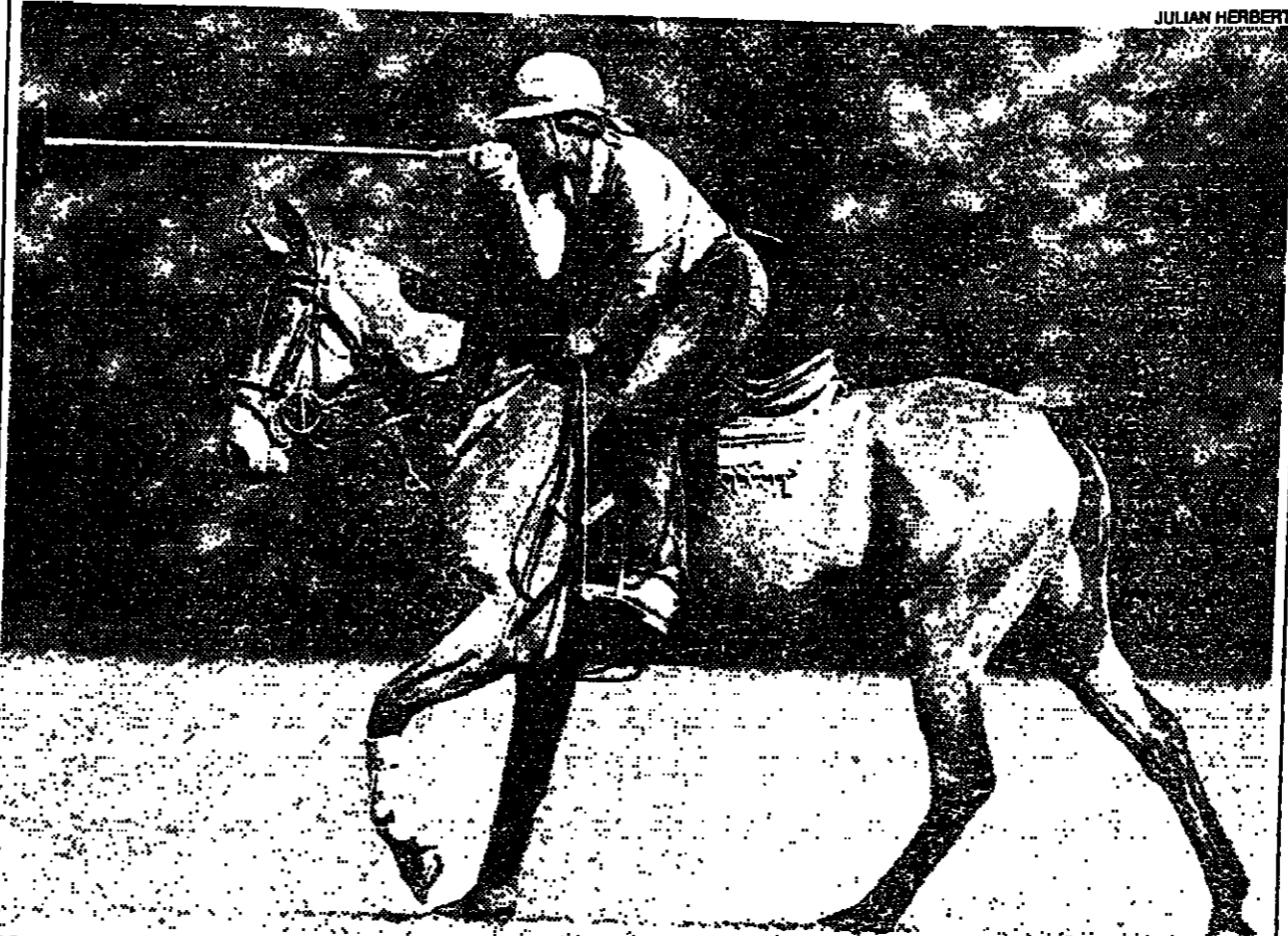
He said: "We would like the whole thing to be done as quickly as possible. We are in no way trying to delay the trial. It has taken 24 years to get to this point."

Mr Randle, a researcher aged 56, said: "The sooner the better for us. We don't want it hanging around any longer. It is a bit of a strain."

The two men say that 20 years ago a decision was taken by the police "at a high level" not to launch proceedings against them, even though the police had reason to believe they had committed the offence.

Polo club takes aim at the future

JULIAN HERBERT



Mrs Claire Tomlinson, the leading British woman polo player, putting her horse, Chancelor, through his paces at the Beaufort Polo Club, at Westonbirt, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, which she and her former husband, Simon, hope may be the first of a new breed of polo clubs in Britain.

The Tomlinsons have put down two polo grounds on the site of the former Beaufort Polo Club ground at Down Farm, Westonbirt, and have retained the

name of the Beaufort club, popular during the 1930s and former home of the Indian polo team of the Maharajah of Jaipur (Ruth Gledhill writes). Now they are planning up to three more grounds in the locality.

The club, which has about 20 players, with handicaps from minus two to plus seven, has been affiliated to the Hurlingham Polo Association. The club's first team is playing in a tournament on Thursday, next week. It has

been revived in co-operation with the Cirencester Park Polo Club. Membership fees depend on age and ability.

Mrs Tomlinson said: "There is a growing demand for polo. We are aiming to encourage and bring on young British players and to produce a high standard. The aim ultimately is to have smaller clubs around the country for teaching and coaching, and the tournaments will stay at the bigger clubs. That is what happens in other countries."

Parkinson launches safety campaign

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

MILLIONS of travellers take unnecessary risks, putting their lives and the lives of others in danger every day, according to a survey published yesterday by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

Launching the transport safety campaign, "Safety on the move", Mr Parkinson urged people using all modes of transport to concentrate their efforts "on what they can do to improve their own safety and the safety of others".

The survey of a representative sample of 1,000 adults, conducted by the British Market Research Bureau, showed that 45 per cent of all drivers regularly exceed the 70mph speed limit and 16 per cent of pedestrians fail to look both ways when crossing the road.

The survey also showed that 17 per cent of rail passengers open train doors before trains stop, 42 per cent of air travellers fail to read safety instructions and 55 per cent of ferry passengers do not check where muster stations are.

Moreover, one in 10 surveyed admitted to jumping off a train before the stop, 4 per cent of London Underground travellers force carriage doors open and 8 per cent of rail travellers lean out of windows while trains are moving.

"Every day millions of transport users take unnecessary risks. Most of the time people get away with these risks unscathed. But it only takes a bit of bad luck, and there can be a serious accident," Mr Parkinson said.

As 90 per cent of road accidents, for example, involve human error, the department had decided to launch a campaign focusing on the contribution travellers could make to their own safety.

Nonetheless, Mr Parkinson said he accepted the Department of Transport had "an overriding priority" to reduce risks faced by travellers, and said everything was being done to ensure that government and transport operators learnt the lessons of past accidents.

Mr Jonathan Bray, a spokesman for the campaign for improved public transport in London, criticized the safety campaign "for blaming passengers for transport accidents when poor management and underfunding are the chief culprits".

He said: "It is all very well reminding people to act sensibly when travelling, but the public know that it was bad management and under-funding that led to disasters like the King's Cross fire and the Clapham crash."

Mr Bray called on Mr Parkinson to set up a new independent safety inspectorate with the finance, powers and the will to oversee public transport, and to agree to additional London Underground lines needed to relieve dangerous overcrowding.

Leading article, page 13
Safe driving, page 19



Mr Parkinson: Travellers take unnecessary risks

Blake's first book fetches £74,000

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

THE best private library of rare English literature is no more after a huge two-day dispersal at Sotheby's, New York. Pickings from the H Bradley Martin collection, which included first editions and autograph manuscripts by such names as W.H. Auden, William Blake, and John Betjeman, were shared between British and American dealers, with private buyers making frequent spirited bids.

An unnamed London dealer paid \$121,000 (£74,029) for a first edition of *Poetical Sketches*, William Blake's first book and one of only 20 known to exist. The estimate had been about £50,000. The book had the added attraction of various handwritten corrections by the author, such as when the word "beds" is changed to "birds", although some scholars believe those additions are fake.

Robert Browning's first book, *Pauline; a Fragment of a Confession*, written while still a teenager, sold to an American dealer for £47,109, while a first edition of Elizabeth Barrett's *The Battle of Marathon*, published when she was 13 and inscribed "for her dearest Grandmama with Elizabeth's love", fetched £30,284.

The sale was the climax of a massive dispersal of the H. Bradley Martin collection, compiled over 40 years by the Manhattan millionaire who became an Anglophile after a period as a student at Christ Church, Oxford, during the 1920s. Other areas of interest, including an impressive line-up of ornithological works, had already been sold according to instructions left by Mr Martin, who died in 1988.

Four lots containing unpublished poems by Sir John Betjeman sold within their estimates, the most expensive fetching \$19,800 (£12,200). The total for the first day's sale of 397 lots was £1.5 million, with 1 per cent unsold.

Flying scenery stops Sondheim musical

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal National Theatre performance of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Sunday in the Park with George* was cancelled last night to allow an investigation after a piece of falling scenery narrowly missed an actor during a performance.

Monday's performance at the Lyttelton Theatre was called off half way through when a wooden tree which needed to be "blown" off stage on pulleys fell from its hook.

It was the third incident at the National in a week leading to the stoppage of a performance, and the second for the Sondheim musical. Last Monday part of another piece of scenery, an iron weightbar, became dislodged.

The next day in the neighbouring Olivier Theatre, Peter Wood, the director, halted a performance of his production of *School for Scandal* when a hydraulic jack broke down, preventing the revolving stage from moving.

After the latest incident on Monday night a meeting of the actors took place and the management agreed to stop

the performance and cancel last night's to allow the whole of the complicated set to be examined. Ticket-holders were being offered refunds. It is expected that today's scheduled matinee performance of *Sunday in the Park with George* will go ahead.

"We have to make sure that everything is completely safe," a theatre spokesman said. "It is an extremely complicated set which requires large flats to fly off and on stage. The show had been on for 52 performances and there seemed no reason why the bar should suddenly be ripped loose on the fifth-third."

"Nor is there any explanation for why the tree should have come loose, but there is no question of sabotage. It has simply been bad luck, but we can take no chances."

The incidents at the theatre and elsewhere are being taken up by Equity, the actors' union. It said yesterday that a new working party involving the union, representatives of stage staff and theatre managers, has been set up to look into safety on stage.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS IN BRISTOL

A mercantile city brought down by craze for change

KING Edward III, in 1373, turned Bristol into a county, separate from Somerset and Gloucestershire. Almost exactly 600 years later, Mr Edward Heath merged Bristol into a new county called Avon, taking in Bath, Weston-super-Mare and various other places, which greatly resented their new status.

Both Bristol and Avon councils have now been rate-capped because, so the Government says, they have been overspending. But the creation of Avon, adding an extra tier of administrative bureaucracy, means that people have to pay more for their local government, whether they do that in income tax, rates or the new community charge.

If the Government really wanted to solve its present difficulties, it could simply abolish Avon and all those tiers of bureaucracy, returning again to the old system when only householders paid any rates or had a vote in local elections.

In Bristol, as everywhere in these local elections, the poll tax has drawn attention away

Bristol's energy that once went into commerce and industry has been diverted over the past 30 years into development and construction. Richard West assesses the consequences

from more serious local issues. The city which had the most violent riots during the agitation preceding the Great Reform Bill of 1832 has taken again to the streets. Even the gentle Greens are burning their poll tax forms.

The Greens are concentrated in the Montpellier district, where health shops are so green "all the potatoes come covered in muck," a resident says. "There are also lots of solar panels in Montpellier but unfortunately it rains most of the time."

The Greens and the left disapprove of the way in which Bristol grew wealthy. As early as the 11th century, Bristol was both the market and the port for the sale of English slaves to Ireland and even further abroad, particularly young women.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Bristol shipped in most

of the wine from France, Spain and Portugal, acquiring itself a reputation for drunkenness. It was the main importer of furs. Bristol's main wealth in the 18th century came from the infamous three-way trade in cloth and drink to West Africa, buying slaves for sale in the West Indies, from where the ships brought back sugar and rum. Many descendants of the slaves now live in the St Paul's district, including the city's next Lord Mayor, the owner of a popular public house.

The Greens and the left joined in denouncing Bristol's new Sixties industries such as Concorde and a zinc smelter at Avonmouth, but most of the energy that went into commerce and industry has been diverted over the past 30 years into development and construction. Bristol was bombed in the Second World War but the damage was slight compared to the orgy of demolition that started about 1960. That year marked the pulling down of Bristol's only Norman house.

The next year witnessed the

demolition of all the Georgian and pre-Georgian houses of Vine Row and Park Hill, followed in 1962 by a medieval church, the Bishop's Palace and several old streets. The demolition reached a climax in 1964 with the disappearance of most of the

Georgian houses as well as some much loved Victorian and Edwardian public buildings.

The pulling down of a cluster of timber-framed houses to make way for a widening of the inner circuit road in 1969 removed the last

part of Bristol where one could stand entirely out of sight of any but 18th-century or earlier buildings.

The beautiful old city has been replaced by a concrete jungle of motorways, overpasses, hideous shopping centres and gimcrack office

blocks. Bristol is now one of the most ugly, depressing places in Britain. It is salutary to compare Bristol with Hull, another old port which also suffered bomb damage in the war. Because Hull has not been developed, because its centre has been restored, it is now as pleasant as Bristol is miserable. The people who used to live in the centre of Bristol were packed off into high-rise flats in the suburbs. Crime, vandalism and broken homes are rife. Near some of the more depressing estates, at Barton Hill, the Avon council finances a youth club, which now has international fame. It is a centre for students of aerosol art, or what the rest of us call spraying graffiti. Apparently people have come from as far as Munich, Lisbon, New York and Brisbane to study under the Barton Hill tutors.

A city which still has some

of the masterpieces of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Britain's engineering genius, is now famous for aerosol art. The SS Great Britain, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, is still in the harbour, one of the few ships these days. The Clifton Suspension Bridge is still an attraction to those who are suicidal. The developers failed to get permission to pull down Brunel's magnificent Temple Meads station.

Brunel's work lies on the outskirts of town. It is the city centre where most of the ruination occurred. The remaining medieval churches include some that are locked for good. Another is now a museum. Even the working churches have only small congregations. It is a good place to ponder Cardinal Hume's remark last month that England is no longer a Christian country.

Battle of the parties

A THIRD of the council is up for election this year in Bristol. The city is controlled by Labour, which holds 37 seats. The Conservatives have 24 seats and the Social and Liberal Democrats have five. Two vacant seats are also being contested. All parties are fighting all 25 seats. Labour is defending the majority of seats — 15 in all. The Conservatives are fighting to hold on to eight seats and the SLD is defending only two. The Greens are hopeful of scoring at least one victory at the polls. They are contesting all the seats up this year.

'Corruption row' embroils council on eve of poll

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday sought to sink Tory hopes of holding on to the flagship London borough of Westminster by accusing local Conservatives and ministers of "corruption" in the allocation of Whitehall grants to the authority.

Westminster has set a poll tax of £195 — the second lowest in London after Wandsworth — and its fate in council elections tomorrow is central to the Government's case for the community charge. If the Tories, who have a majority of only four seats, beat off the Labour challenge and buck the national trend, ministers will be able to argue that it is the level of the charge, not the underlying principle of a flat-rate tax, that is at fault.

Yesterday, Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, produced leaked papers which, he said, contained evidence of "corruption" involving local Tories and ministers to "gerrymander" the election result. He suggested that Westminster had illegally used ratepayers' money to hire a firm of lobbyists to conduct a high-powered persuasion exercise stretching all the way to the Prime Minister.

In a bizarre twist, Lady Porter, leader of Westminster council, initially denied the allegations about hiring the firm of lobbyists but then retracted her remarks. A spokesman said she had been caught unawares and that the council had spent under £5,000 on hiring GJW, a firm of lobbyists, to make its case to the Government over the safety net and the council's need for extra money for services to tourists, commuters and shoppers to make up for that lost through the introduction of the uniform business rate. He said that Mr Paul Dimoldenberg, leader of the Labour group, worked for Good Relations, a lobbying firm previously associated with GJW.

The Department of the Environment denied that Westminster had been given special treatment, and Mr Barry Legg, the Tory chief whip for the council, dismissed the claims as a "desperate pre-election gimmick".

Dr Cunningham said: "The purpose of this conspiracy has

been to manipulate the eventual level of the poll tax in Westminster, and almost certainly in Wandsworth and Bradford, too, for the simple political objective of retaining political control as a squalid political exercise."

"Now we have the evidence which confirms our suspicions that this has been deliberately manipulated with the misdirection of public funds and the very partial and special treatment given to these Tory boroughs simply to try to buy another four years in power. Ministers have clearly been involved, as has 10 Downing Street... lobbyists have clearly been employed by the council at the ratepayers' expense."

He added that Westminster had been given an extra £25 million — worth £185 a person in lower poll-tax bills — as a result of the lobbying exercise. "This is corruption."

Mr Legg replied: "In common with hundreds of other councils, of course, we lobby the Government about the £75 safety net and the cost to our charge-payers of servicing a million commuters, tourists and shoppers who pour into Westminster every day."

There were four documents produced by Labour, including reports of meetings and one making direct reference to the Prime Minister. It said: "The Prime Minister is the last resort. She should only be invoked when all arguments have failed to persuade DoE ministers of the rightness of Westminster's case."

The department rejected the claims and denied that Westminster had behaved improperly. "Westminster's grant was calculated on precisely the same basis as applied to other authorities," it said.

Conservative Central Office denied there had been special treatment.



Dr Cunningham: Seized on leaked documents

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Big Brewers resist order on sale of rival beers

By David Sapsted

NEW brands of beer should have appeared — but in most cases did not — in more than 21,000 British public houses yesterday as the first step in the Government's drive for more competition in the brewing industry and greater choice for the drinking public.

Under a Department of Trade and Industry order made after last year's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the industry, tenants of public houses owned by the five big brewers were free from yesterday to start selling at least one "guest" cask-conditioned ale, buying it direct from an independent company.

The new order did not work out that way. Tenants claimed pressure from the brewers; the National Union of Licensed Victuallers was mulling over legal action; and the companies were considering rent increases for publicans who started selling beers from independent brewers next to their own.

Independent and regional brewery companies, mean-

while, intensified efforts to persuade tied houses to carry their beers. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries even offered rent subsidies or loans at 5 per cent to publicans ready to stock its Banks's brew. That, in turn, led to existing Banks's publicans protesting that the national brewers' pubs in the Midlands would suddenly be offered a price edge they did not enjoy.

Mr John Overton, chief executive of the licensed victuallers' union, said: "It is all somewhat confusing and unsatisfactory." The union is taking legal advice over the proposal by GrandMet, one of the big five brewers, to review the rents of its 4,238 tenants because of the "new retail opportunity" in the Government order.

The monopolies commission originally proposed that the big five — Allied-Lyons, Bass, Courage, GrandMet and Whitbread — should be required to reduce the total number of tenancies to just 2,000 each. The report added that a tenant should be allowed to carry one guest beer, which would have given publicans access to the boom market in lager.

Pressure applied inside and outside of Parliament by the brewing lobby, however, finally left the companies with all their properties and left tenants with only the opportunity of carrying at least one cask-conditioned ale outside the brewery-supplied portfolio.

Mr Ken Hollingworth, who runs Ye Olde Green Dragon, an Allied-owned house at Shenfield, Essex, estimated that even that concession could mean the big five losing up to a fifth of their cask-conditioned sales.

"I have been carrying two guest beers, Adams and Greene King, for some time. Both were supplied via Allied but, when I said I was thinking of buying in one of them direct myself, the company said it would stop supplying me with the other one," Mr Hollingworth, chairman of the Allied Tenants' Group, said.

"There was also the threat of a rent review, but we took legal action and Allied starting backing off. I don't quite know what the position is at the moment but I am talking to other brewers this week to see what they have to offer."

Regional brewers have been offering various inducements, including free or cut-price ales, over the past two months in the hope that tenants would jump on their beer wagon. Apart from GrandMet, the national brewers have started offering to supply their tenants with a range of guest beers, the brew depending on regional preferences.

The Campaign for Real Ale, meanwhile, has been waging its own publicity campaign, urging publicans to go their own way but, so far, tenants appear to be waiting for the dust to settle.

"It sounds a good opportunity but it is scarcely worthwhile increasing your range if, at the end of the day, your extra profits are going to be taken away in higher rents. Most tied houses are still biding their time, seeing if the whole thing is going to be commercially viable," Mr Overton said.



Rites of May: The White Hart Morrismen from Redditch celebrating the dawning of May Day at 5am yesterday at St James's church, Weechley, Warwickshire

Tommy the Hat will sweet-talk tourists for a free pint

By Harvey Elliott

TOMMY the Hat, who on most days can be found sitting in his favourite corner at the bar of his local drinking pits of bitter and playing a mean game of dominoes, has found himself in the front line of the battle to persuade foreign visitors, especially Americans, to see more of the "real Britain".

Tommy, like hundreds of other pub regulars, has been spotted as a potential crowd puller and in return for free pints at the Granary Hotel, Amble, Northumberland, has been

persuaded to become one of a new breed of "professional" locals, provided he teaches visitors how to play darts and dominoes, speaks the dialect, reminisces about the good old days and allows them to sit in his corner while they take photographs for the folks back home.

The idea of recruiting the regulars came to Mr David Hayes, director of Wayfarer Inns, which looks after the marketing for independent country pubs, inns and small hotels, after he studied the results of a survey among American travel

agents about what their clients wanted to see and experience in Britain. Nearly 75 per cent of those questioned said their clients would like to sample country inns and pubs if only they could book such things in advance and were guaranteed the chance of sampling the local life.

He wrote to all group members from Devon to Scotland suggesting that they recruit their local character to act as some kind of ambassador and provide the touch of authentic colour tourists so often seek but rarely find. The response has been

overwhelming. It seems that Britain is full of the likes of Tommy who would love to earn themselves free pints for a half-hour chat.

"This is a very serious proposition," Mr Hayes said. "The inns who belong to our group have between five and 15 bedrooms and really represent the true picture of rural Britain. We want them to earn their beer, however."

Tommy, nicknamed "the hat" because of the woolly hat he wears incessantly, will also have to hand over a recipe for his favourite family

dish, which in his case is rabbit pie, identify the main items of local gossip and news and describe beauty spots in the immediate area.

For Tommy, a retired coal-miner of indeterminate age, that will present few problems because he has always lived in and around Amble and loves to gossip anyway. If he and his fellow regulars can woo the tourists and persuade them to pay up to £75 a night for a double room in an old inn the chances are that they will be rewarded with far more than the odd free pint.

Libel damages for MP

SIR Hector Monro, Conservative MP for Dumfries, accepted substantial undisclosed damages at the High Court in London yesterday in settlement of his libel action against the League Against Cruel Sports.

Mr Michael Grieve, for Sir Hector, told Mr Justice Michael Davies that the league, which campaigned for the abolition of all forms of hunting and other field sports, had also unreservedly withdrawn imputations in an article published in its newspaper *Wildlife Guardian* in November 1987.

The article contained allegations over the circumstances of Sir Hector's leaving the government in 1981 when he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment. Mr Grieve said the league had recognized the damage caused to Sir Hector and had published a full apology in a recent edition of *Wildlife Guardian*.

Mr Tom Hart, for the league, which is to pay Sir Hector's legal costs, said the officers and members regretted that the wholly unjustified statements were ever made. The society's present staff were not associated with the publication of the offending article.



Sir Hector: Full apology from league

Big haul of 'crack'

West Midlands police have made what is believed to be the largest seizure in Britain of "crack", the highly addictive cocaine-based drug. Crack with a street value estimated at £27,000 was discovered when police raided a flat in the Holloway Head area of Birmingham on Monday night.

It was the fifth seizure of crack by West Midlands police in the past two years. A spokesman said that the weight of the drug discovered was still being determined. Three people are being questioned in connection with the seizure.

Marsh remand

Terry Marsh, the former world boxing champion charged with the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager, was further remanded in custody until May 8 at Barking Magistrates' Court.

Village plea

Villagers at Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, have demanded their Georgian post box back after Royal Mail Services, in a dawn raid, replaced it with a modern box. The demand is being considered.

Damages award

A psychologist who had to quit her job after being knocked down by a car in south London and suffering a change in personality won £200,000 damages in the High Court from the driver, aged 21.

Quick thinking

Roy Bowling, aged 21, of Leyton, east London, was found not guilty of rape when a jury at the Central Criminal Court returned the verdict in four minutes, said to be a record.

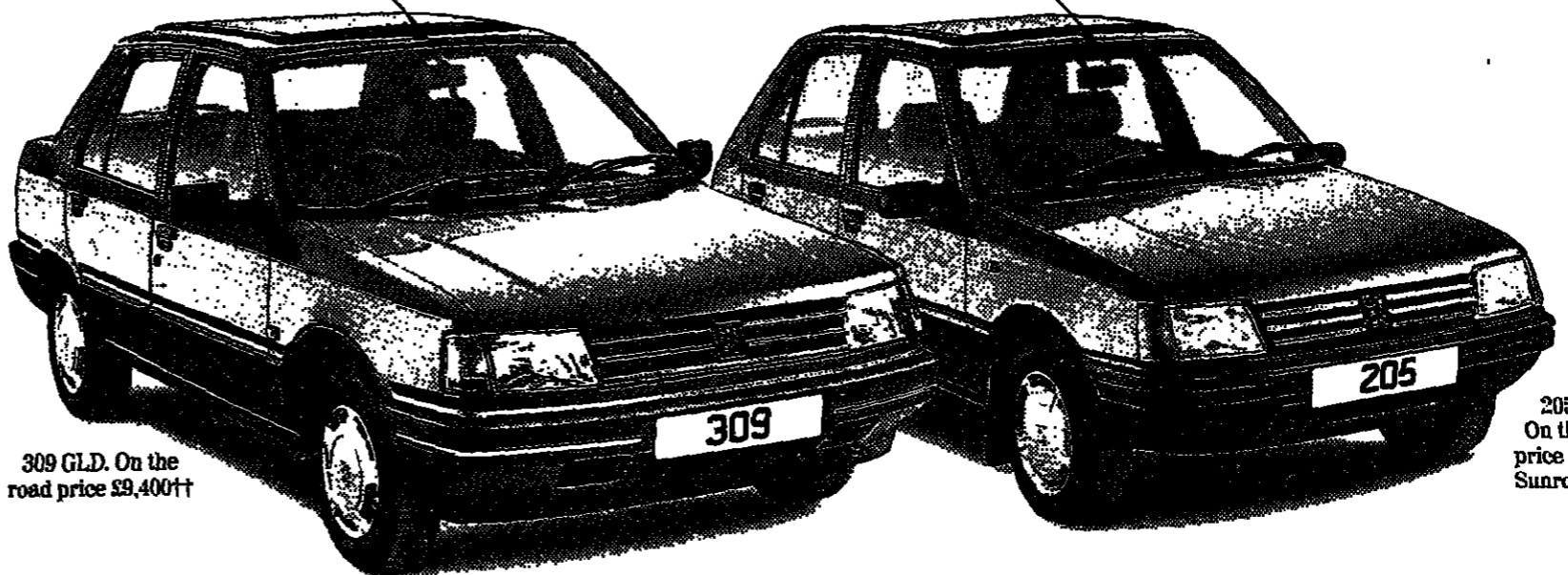
Slippery slope

Cars were wrecked and pedestrians jumped for their lives when a 38-ton lorry carrying frozen lamb hurtled through the centre of Axminster, Devon, after its brakes failed.

Bean bath

Mr Kevin Nally raised £2,000 for children at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, by sitting in a bath of cold baked beans for six hours.

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Soviet

Thatcher refuses to be drawn on poll tax legislation

THE Prime Minister refused to be drawn into saying during question time whether the Government would legislate to modify the community charge in the present session of Parliament.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that poll tax would have to be abolished — "even if it means the Prime Minister goes down with his own flag". He opened by asking: Will she tell us whether or not she is going to introduce legislation to change poll tax in this session of Parliament?

Mrs Margaret Thatcher: When in fact we have a statement, we shall make it. It will be far more detailed and thorough than any we have had from him (Labour protests).

Mr Kinnock: Does she not remember telling me a few short

weeks ago that she thought community charge will be very popular? Does she still believe that and, if so, why is she sending ministers off in every direction, desperately searching for an escape route from poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Community charge is a much fairer charge (Labour laughter and interruptions)... and a far fairer charge than the alternative roof tax.

I notice that when Mr Kinnock gave an interview on April 21, it says this: "Mr Kinnock then gave a strong indication of his own thinking" (Conservative laughter).

He said: "The tax base for rates was imputed rents and that's one thing we can take into account now and bung into the computer".

She said: Does he not know the

PRIME MINISTER

old computer saying (further interruptions) "Garbage in, garbage out"? (Conservative laughter)

Mr Kinnock: Can the Prime Minister understand what just about everybody in the country now understands: That poll tax will never be fair (Labour cheers). It cannot be amended. It must be got rid of.

Mrs Thatcher: Can he not understand that domestic rates have been abolished? They were the most unfair tax; the enemy is not community charge, but high-spending Labour councils.

Mr Andrew Smith (Oxford East, Lab): Does she accept responsibility

for the chaos and confusion at the heart of government over poll tax? Does she not owe it to this House, and the people, before they vote on Thursday, to give a straight answer to a straight question: What precisely will she do about poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Of course adjustments will have to be made and we are looking to see what they have to be. If there is any confusion, it is in the minds of local Labour authorities.

High community charges are due to local Labour councils. Most councils have got out their charges with the rebates and transitional relief.

Miss Emma Nicholson (West Devon and Torridge, C) said that because only 19 million people had

paid rates and 36 million were now liable to pay for local services, the charge was already infinitely fairer.

Mrs Thatcher: She is correct. More than 70 per cent of people in a poll said that they believed that everybody should make some contribution to local government spending. That is precisely what community charge does, with more generous rebates than ever, and generous rebates on transitional relief.

It is much fairer than rates or roof tax.

Dr David Owen: Is banding of the poll tax one of the adjustments she has in mind, so that people can pay on the basis of their ability to pay, or is the Prime Minister opposed to that in principle? Or are there

practical arguments, in which case perhaps she will enumerate them?

Mrs Thatcher: Those who cannot afford to pay get very generous community charge rebates, more generous than ever before. About nine million people benefit from them.

Those who have a sharp difference between the old rates and community charge are eligible for transitional relief. That applies to seven million people.

People who do not get sufficient transitional relief live in high-spending Labour council areas (Labour protests).

Better-off people, she said, paid far more for local services because national tax was the greatest contributor to local authority spending. The

top 10 per cent of earners paid 40 per cent, far more than those in the bottom 10 per cent.

Mr Dennis Cassman (Falkirk West, Lab) said Mrs Thatcher had herself called poll tax the flagship. Now that the elections were fast approaching, despite the captain's order to change course, she should recall what had happened to that other flagship, the Belgrano.

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Canavan could have done better. In Scotland, local authorities were holding or reducing the charge. "Accountability is at last beginning to work, as this year councils cannot blame increases on anybody except themselves."

Letters, page 13

Stance on sovereignty wins wide support

THE Prime Minister's stance at the Dublin summit last week, when she made clear her determination to defend the powers of the House of Commons in any moves towards political union in Europe, was widely supported when she reported to MPs yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that there were widely differing views at the summit on what political union covered. She had pointed out that the term raised anxieties about loss of national identity, national sovereignty and national institutions.

She added: "I suggested that the positive way forward lay instead through ever closer co-operation among member states and reform of the Community's existing institutions to make them more effective and more efficient. We shall have constructive ideas to put forward for this. I found a number of these views shared by other heads of government."

DUBLIN SUMMIT

exercise only marginal influence on events?

"It is not now plain that the Prime Minister has made herself a mere spectator, the lame duck of the Community and she has only herself to blame?"

Mrs Thatcher said that, on inflation, she had nothing to add to what she had said after the Madrid summit.

On the statement on Lithuania, there had been a meeting a week earlier of all the foreign ministers which had issued a joint communiqué with which Britain had been associated.

The communiqué had been issued in terms of the Political Co-operation Treaty which required all states to consult one another, if possible, before making statements.

Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand had not consulted others before they issued their statement, although it was in the Political Co-operation Treaty that they should have done so.

"I am not surprised or disappointed that they did not because I think that, because we agree on political co-operation, does not mean that we relinquish sovereignty, either unilaterally or bilaterally, and we can make our own statements."

"I think it was rather on my side that they were giving practical evidence they did not intend to give up their sovereignty, unilaterally or bilaterally, even though they were talking without any definition whatever of political union."

Regarding the document put forward about political union, Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand had been talking of political union without defining it. The document talked of increased efficiency of the Community institutions, increased economic union and monetary union. But repetition of the word "union" did not define political union.



Mr Howell: Strong case for political progress

"In this session one was one of the political players, one of the principal players, but many people supported what I said, and we got our own way in asking the foreign ministers to analyse what political union meant."

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C), chairman of the foreign affairs committee, said that the Prime Minister had been right in Dublin to seek a clearer definition of what was meant by European political union.

There was a strong case for further political progress and development in Europe, but that should be constitutionally based on the strength of the role of national parliaments and not on bureaucratic centralism or by increasing the power of centralized institutions without proper accountability.

The Prime Minister had made an excellent start in putting that forward and should continue with vigour.

Mrs Thatcher said that it seemed that there had been a tendency to increase the central powers of the Commission, but that was the wrong way. A greater distribution of powers was needed, and those powers should be taken through national parliaments and the Council of Ministers.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the DUP, said that the Prime Minister's strong statement in defence of parliamentary sovereignty accurately reflected the views of people not only in Northern Ireland but also throughout the United Kingdom (Conservative cheers).

Mrs Thatcher said that the statement "does reflect our views". She added: "We are by far the oldest Parliament. Probably we report far more often to our Parliament about everything which goes on in the EC than many other heads of Government."

Not being prepared at the start to put any limitation on political union was rather alarming because it could mean going step by step "towards relinquishing those things which are vital to our parliamentary tradition".

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) said that, far from being isolationist or lacking in influence in Europe, the outcome of the summit proved "that we are leading Europe from within and doing so on the basis of our insistence on real parliamentary democracy and asking simple questions of those in authority".

Mrs Thatcher agreed. "It is wrong that people should use phrases without defining them. It is our task as heads of government to define them, to set strict limits to them, and I could not possibly come back here without doing precisely that."

"It took a good deal to get that done at this informal summit, but it is now being done."

Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Eu-

rope, said: "Many people in all parties and throughout Britain do not necessarily regard it as being in Britain's best interests that the Prime Minister gets her own way, and many feel that her attitude in Dublin was negative and insular."

Many felt that the development of a federal Europe, far from being a threat, was the best protection of our realistic sovereignty and economic well-being.

Mrs Thatcher: "It is not my way that one achieves. It is the way that this Government feels is best for Britain. It has done very well for Britain in finance, agriculture, trade, competition and so on — in particular in getting a realistic budget."

"Clearly Sir Russell does not mind losing, little by little — even faster than that — the powers of this House to a federal Europe. I disagree with him."

Any more centralization should be stopped, and they should make sure that the future of the Community involved implementing things through national parliaments.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP) said that the president of the Commission had made clear that he envisaged European political union in a structure where most decisions would be taken in Brussels, and Chancellor Kohl had made clear in Dublin that he saw more and more power being vested in the non-elected Commission.

In view of that, could the Prime Minister give a categorical assurance that if there was a move to change the Treaty of Rome she would give the nation the opportunity by referendum to say if that course should be followed or not?

Mrs Thatcher said that the next meeting in Dublin in June would receive a report from foreign ministers who would doubtless by then have put forward proposals about the way forward. She believed that an inter-governmental conference would be set up because most people wanted it and it could be done by simple majority vote.

"We shall have our own proposals about making the institution work better. We are aware of the enormous powers vested in a non-elected Commission body and do not think that they should be increased."

There would be a tremendous effort to increase them under monetary union and economic union. "That is where the main battles will come, I think. But everything would have to come back to the House for approval."

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said that the Prime Minister had been right in Dublin to welcome the reunification of the two Germanies. It was a pity that the EC was not similarly forthcoming about bringing in the other independent countries of Eastern Europe.



12% more nurses, MPs told

IN THE nine years to September 1988 there had been an 12.7 per cent increase in nursing and midwifery staff, including agency staff, employed in the National Health Service in England, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, told the Commons during question time yesterday.

In September 1988 there had been 403,900 staff compared with 358,400 a decade earlier. Over the same period, qualified staff had increased by 26 per cent.

Mr Graham Bright (Luton South, C) said that the figures once again nailed the lie that the Government was making cuts in the health service. It was also a fact that since 1979 nurses' average pay had risen 43 per cent in real terms.

Mrs Bottomley said that she could confirm those figures which were a clear indication of the Government's support for the health service. In inner London, a top-grade sister was now earning £17,000 a year, a half more in real terms than 10 years ago.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said that the figures showed there had been a bigger increase in numbers in five years of the previous Labour Government than in the 10 years of the present Government. He was asking the House to congratulate the Government was in maintaining half the rate of increase previously achieved.

Mrs Bottomley said that it was surprising that Mr Cook should wish to draw attention to his record in government, because under the Conservatives nurses' pay had increased 43 per cent, while under Labour it had fallen by an average of 21 per cent.

Shackleton crash 'cuts' questioned

CUTS in recent years had led to a drop in the operational efficiency of the RAF, Mr Allan Rogers, Opposition spokesman on defence, told MPs during exchanges about the crash of a Shackleton early warning aircraft on Monday.

Speaking during a private notice question on the crash in the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides, which claimed 10 lives, he said: "It is with these cutbacks that we get such tragedies as this."

He was told by Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, that until the investigations of a board of inquiry were complete, it would not be appropriate to speculate about the accident's causes.

Mr Rogers said that the ground crews had a tremendously difficult task in keeping the 20-year-old aircraft in service.

"It is a task which has been made extremely difficult in recent years because of cutbacks in operational Shackletons from eleven to six in this squadron."

"There has been a cannibalization of the planes that have gone out of commission. They have been robbed in order to keep aircraft in the air."

Questions on this crash needed to be answered. A matter of real concern was the role being played by the aircraft at the time.

He understood from the RAF that the aircraft had been participating in a missile-firing exercise, although no missiles had been fired for at least one-and-a-half hours before the crash.

If it had been on flight training, why was it flying at 700 feet when its normal operational mode was 6,000 to 8,000 feet? It was not equipped to fly at those low levels.

Mr Hamilton said that there was no question of putting lives

RAF EFFICIENCY

at risk in flying these aircraft. The aircraft had not been participating in an exercise when it crashed. That had finished an hour or so before-hand. It had been on a training flight.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that they should not speculate on the causes of accidents before hearing from the board on inquiry. No RAF aircraft of whatever age flew unless fully serviceable and airworthy.

Mr Hamilton agreed. The aircraft had an exceptional record. The last one to crash had been in 1968 and that was a maritime patrol version.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that she had left a stunned community. Some of the bereaved were known to her. "May I ask that there be no idle speculation about the possible causes of this tragedy?"

Mr Hamilton said that the board of inquiry was sitting. If they came up with any *facie* evidence of technical faults that caused disquiet, the fleet would be grounded at once. The aircraft were not flying today as a mark of respect.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, Lib Dem) asked when replacement aircraft were likely to come into operation.

Mr Hamilton said that the Government was not happy with the Shackleton's capability as an airborne early warning aircraft and was looking to replace them "as soon as we can". Avacs would be coming in the spring of next year and he hoped that the whole order of seven aircraft would be completed about twelve months from then.

Michael Evans, page 12

Attempt to hold spending rejected

An attempt to restrict increases in local government spending to the rate of inflation for the next two years was defeated in the Commons. Mr Kenneth Hind (West Lancashire, C) told MPs that increased spending after the introduction of the community charge would add 1 per cent to the rate of inflation.

"This will affect the reduction in the mortgage interest rates, interest rates for business and the whole economic strategy of this Government," he said. "Labour councils' increased expenditure are everywhere else's higher mortgage repayments."

However, he was refused leave to introduce his Control of Inflation (Local Government) Bill by 143 votes to 88.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab), opposing the Bill, said that Mr Hind was tinkering with the poll tax. But there was no safety net with which Conservative MPs could be rescued. It would never get any better.

Agency status for pay office

The Chessington Computer Centre, part of the Treasury, is to become a "next steps" agency, the Earl of Caithness, Paymaster General, announced in a written reply to the Lords.

The centre employs 450 staff and is the main supplier of computerized payroll services to government departments. More than half Britain's civil servants are paid by use of the centre's standard payroll system.

"Executive agency status will allow the centre to develop its business on sound commercial lines."

Iraq gun case arrests queried

MPs from all sides joined in demands in the Commons for an immediate ministerial statement about the arrest of a British subject in the Iraq gun affair.

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said that he had been told that Mr Peter Mitchell, of Walter Somers, among others, had been arrested. Until the intervention of his wife, he had not been allowed access to a solicitor. As yet there was no charge and the matter was not *sub judice* and could be discussed.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said these people should not be allowed to be scapegoats for others' inefficiency.

Hurd to meet Mandela

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, will meet Mr Nelson Mandela shortly to discuss how the process of peaceful change in South Africa can best be taken forward, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State, said in a written Commons reply.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Questions Scotland, Environmental Protection Bill, conclusion of remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Debate on the Channel tunnel and its road and rail links.

Criminal record check for staff

COUNCILS are likely to be compelled to seek details of previous criminal convictions from staff applying for jobs in residential or nursing homes, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, indicated in the Commons yesterday.

She said that the Government would seek an opportunity to bring homes with fewer than three residents within the present control.

She said that registering authorities should ask an applicant for registration to provide details of any previous criminal convictions. Local councils were already advised to seek that information. The Government was also considering making this an obligation on authorities when the regulations made under the Registered Homes Act, 1984, are next revised.

Mr Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton

NURSING HOMES

South East, Lab) said that that appeared to be progress. Many people could not understand why there were different criteria for those who worked in children's homes, residential accommodation and for the handicapped and other vulnerable groups. He hoped the changes would be made quickly.

Mrs Bottomley said that the department was having discussions with the Home Office. Work had started to ensure that criminal records should be available in the public sector.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said that a valuable step in controlling the abuse would come from the operation of con-

tracts and the work of care managers. If that was done properly, it should make a big difference.

Mrs Bottomley said that the complaints procedure written into the National Health Service and Community Care Bill would be an additional safeguard.

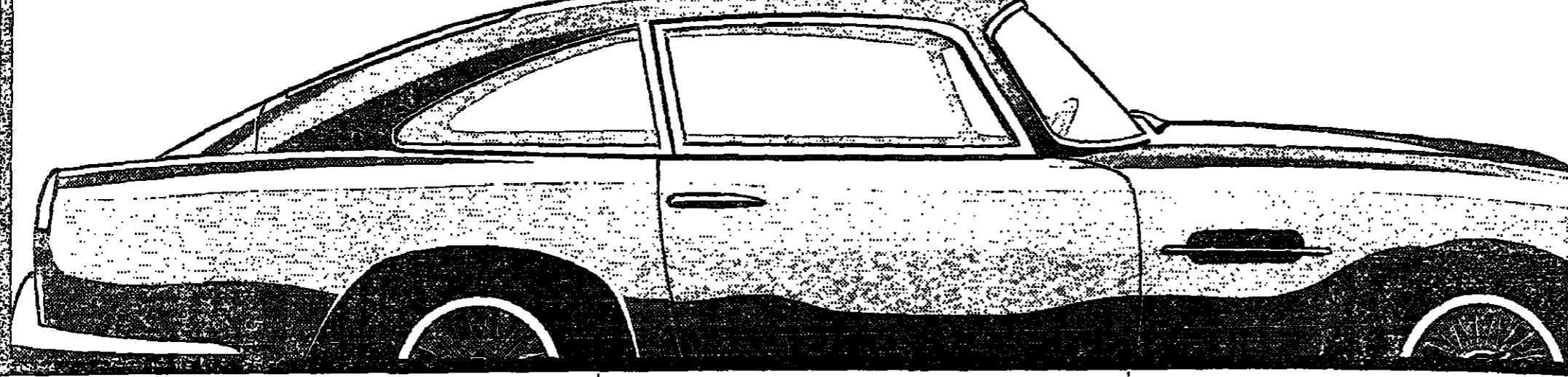
Ms Harriet Harman, an Opposition spokeswoman on health, said that one woman had a string of convictions while running an old people's home and when she came out of prison would be able to set up another old people's home if she kept it to fewer than three residents. Would the minister plug this dangerous loophole?

Mrs Bottomley said that standards must be maintained in private and public sectors. She had made clear that the Government would look for a legislative opportunity to control small homes.

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Soviet reform groups steal the show in Red Square

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

THE scarcely believable news was around Moscow within the hour: "We drove them out"; "They couldn't stand it"; "We won"; people cheered to each other. At 11.30 on May Day morning, as grey clouds replaced the early sunshine, President Gorbachev and his party ended their public expression of solidarity with the Soviet and international working class and walked silently from Red Square to shouts of "Shame" and whistles of derision.

For the previous half-hour, the President and his group had stood on top of the Lenin mausoleum facing a multi-coloured crowd of banner-waving enthusiasts. Confronted with this part-happy, part-angry crowd, the official group looked calm, if solemn, but after a rustle of consultation and a glance at the television cameras, which were winding down their live coverage, they left.

Behind the mausoleum, in semi-

privacy, Mrs Raisa Gorbachev talked animatedly to Mr Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow Communist Party leader, without whose recommendation the demonstration would not have been permitted and whose job may now be on the line. Mr Prokofyev then spent several minutes in conversation with Mr Gavril Popov, the new Mayor of Moscow - whose appearance on the platform earlier had been hailed with chants of "Well done" - "Mo-lo-dets" - "Mo-lo-dets" - but neither reappeared to calm the crowd.

The demonstrators wound their way through Red Square, along a complex of crowd-control corridors formed by police and plain-clothes "volunteers" for another hour before being eased out by deft police manoeuvring.

By 1 pm, the plain-clothes brigades had been replaced by uniformed police and the square was empty except for a small group of women cleaners, sweeping the cobbles vainly with small brooms, a dozen water trucks to hose

down the square, and a small group of women - "Mothers Against Violence in the Army" - demonstrating against the bullying that had cost their sons' lives. They were escorted firmly from the square.

It had been a Moscow May Day demonstration like no other. Everybody who was anybody in the informal movements was there: from the Democratic Platform (the recently anathematized reform wing of the Communist Party), through the Liberals and the Democrats and the Social Democrats, to the late Dr Andrei Sakharov's Memorial Group and the anarcho-syndicalists with their distinctive red and black banners.

The Lithuanians and their backers were also out in force, with the red, yellow and green flags of "Free Lithuania" and their anti-blockade placards: "Gorbachev, Let Lithuania Go", "Long Live Free Lithuania", "Stop Strangling Lithuania".

Throughout, the joyful disorder of the crowd had been punctuated by the

precision of the elite unit changing the ceremonial guard in front of the mausoleum. The chanting and whistling of the demonstrators had been all but drowned for the official guests by the blaring "background" music, part-martial, part-pop and part-uplifting exhortations to better work. The old was giving way to the new, but not quite yet.

When the country's top leaders turned and left, there was a feeling that they had, perhaps for the first time, met the whole multiplicity of their people face to face - and had not liked what they saw.

May Day 1990 was different from previous May Days not only in its denouement. The international celebration of labour had been given a "kinder, gentler look". The prevailing colour was not red: pale blues dominated the giant billboards of Marx, Engels and Lenin in Red Square. Public buildings and bus stops were adorned with pastel flower motifs and multi-coloured flags hung from the bridges.

But the effect was spoilt on May Day

morning by the security. Central Moscow looked, for almost the first time in the past year, like a thoroughly totalitarian city. The vast squares were empty of civilians, occupied by army lorries.

Falsely cheerful music screamed from invisible loudspeakers. Police, Interior Ministry troops and regulars patrolled the pavements, and the thugs who form the KGB's reserve guard - dully-dressed youths with bulging muscles and poor complexions - thronged each entry point to Red Square.

At 9.55, groups of trade union-sponsored demonstrators advanced from their mustering points around the inner ring-road behind their red banners to converge and enter the square as a symbolic wave of working class solidarity. The Politburo group, which included leaders of official trade unions and the new leaders of Moscow City Council, walked on to the mausoleum to greet the crowd as the Kremlin clock struck 10.

A weak cheer went up, the hurrahs of former years were not even invited, and

any triumphalism that might have permeated the occasion drained away as trade union speaker after speaker criticized the leadership for indecision, called for the living standards of workers to be maintained and damned the reform programme with faint praise. "We want perestroika, but not at any cost", their officially printed banners said. "Give us real wages for real work," said others.

The perfunctory trade union gathering was over within 40 minutes - a sad comment on the state of labour internationalism in its erstwhile home. Slowly, the 50,000 or so demonstrators filed out of the main square, and the informal groups stood where they had demonstrated less than an hour before, the flags of Free Lithuania at their head, waiting for the square to be theirs. For nearly two hours, it was theirs - though it could be a very long time before it is so again.

Leading article, page 13

Two Berlins unite for May Day festivities

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

BERLINERS from East and West yesterday celebrated their first joint May Day since 1946, shaking off the divisions and rhetoric of the emotionally charged workers' day holiday to enjoy demonstrations, beer and sausages together.

On the 100th anniversary of the festival, which has always had a special significance for the city known since the beginning of the century as Red Berlin, tens of thousands of East Berliners marched through the Brandenburg Gate to hear politicians and trade unionists' speeches in front of the Reichstag.

But the Karl-Marx-Allee, the traditional scene of the May Day rallies carefully orchestrated by the former regime to rival Moscow's, remained empty. A year ago a crowd of 800,000 waved to the seemingly unbudgeable Herr Erich Honecker and heard the trade unionist Herr Harry Tisch promise that "imperialism will never defeat socialism in the colours of the GDR".

Security forces were always on hand, however, to prevent any unscheduled revolutionary activity. This year, in the largest joint policing operation so far, the forces from both sides of the city worked together to prevent the predicted escalation in violence.

They had feared that the

riots, which are now almost traditional on May Day in the western borough of Kreuzberg, neighbouring the Wall and a constant flashpoint, could spread into the East, especially after an increase in neo-Nazi and anarchist activity on both sides of the Wall. However, it was considered a quiet afternoon in Kreuzberg, despite the broken glass littering the streets, boarded-up shop windows and a march of several thousand featuring balaclava-clad "freedom fighters".

The *Autonomen* - the autonomous ones - dressed in black, who populate the area, occupied themselves by chanting slogans about killing the rich, but were otherwise quite well behaved. The May Day riots here two years ago were the most violent since 1968 and the authorities now prefer to indulge in "low-profile peacekeeping".

The *Autonomen* are a motley mixture of revolutionaries in search of a cause and rich kids fleeing from the prosperous confines of West German society for a few years of anarchic freedom in Berlin. Even the most militant West German political groups are shy about being identified with them.

Herr Georg Fischer, who said he would rather be known as "Rat", bemoaned the lack of violence or "a good day out" as he put it, complaining that West Berlin had been overtaken by London as the rioters' paradise. Clutching his pet rat, he set off determinedly in search of someone to help organize trouble and handed out an invitation to an illegal late-night street party bearing the injunction "bring your own Molotov cocktail".

Unrest grows in Albania

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade

ALBANIA'S leader, Mr Ramiz Alia, reformists and diehard Albanian communists seem close to a showdown, with reports of fresh unrest reaching here from several towns. The political battle has now been moved to the streets, with Mr Alia's supporters clearly relying on popular support to help push through change.

Unrest was reported in Vlore, Korce and Elbasan, where demonstrators called for the toppling of Mrs Nexhmije Hoxha, the widow of Albania's deceased strongman, who has been the power behind the throne and a leading hardliner.

In Vlore, on the Adriatic, a skirmish between football fans erupted into a political demonstration against the secret police. In Durres, demonstrators demanded the sacking of the local party leader. In all the demonstrations the crowds were shouting "long live Ramiz Alia, down with Nexhmije", suggesting that the two personalities symbolize the two opposing currents and indicating that Mr Alia's more recent reformist promises are gaining the upper hand.

Politika, the Yugoslav daily newspaper published in Belgrade, claimed that special riot police were recently deployed in Shkoder, the northern Albanian town with a large Roman Catholic population which was the scene of recent demonstrations by students demanding democratization.

Mr Alia has so far carefully avoided any direct confrontation with the hardliners, but a speech he delivered last month, in which he offered to restore diplomatic relations with both the Soviet Union and the United States, marked a watershed, suggesting that his reformist wing now believes itself to be strong enough to move into a battle against the still powerful communist old guard.

Mormons rewrite their ritual

Salt Lake City - In a rare revision of Mormon ritual, the church has dropped wording that required women to pledge to obey their husbands and portrayed the clergy of other religions as agents of Satan.

Women must now vow to obey God rather than their husbands in the "endowment" ceremony, a ritual the church teaches is necessary to enable members to be with God after death.

The revised ritual took effect last month in ceremonies performed in the 43 temples.

Bodies claimed

Panama City - Seven Panamanians killed during December's US military invasion and buried in a common grave have been identified by relatives. (AP)



Red-letter day: Workers across the globe celebrating May Day in diverse ways. China, unlike other socialist countries, does not organize parades, and this couple in Peking, left, marked the day with ballroom dancing. In Kathmandu, top, Nepalese women workers took part in a peaceful march, while in Cape Town, South Africa, bottom, black workers staged a rather more belligerent parade carrying mock weapons

Cubans proudly display their socialist colours amid a carnival atmosphere

By Our Foreign Staff

IN Cuba, three million workers, ignoring a popular swing against communism in Eastern Europe, celebrated May Day across the country with mass marches billed by the Government as a show of support for President Castro and his socialist system.

In contrast to more subdued parades in East European countries that have moved away from communism, Cuba's well-organized celebration of Workers' Day was the most spectacular in the western hemisphere and among the biggest in the world.

President Castro, wearing his familiar olive-green uniform and cap, watched through binoculars from a reviewing stand as more than half a million workers, soldiers and youngsters carrying flags and banners marched on Havana's Revolution Square to the sound of revolutionary songs blared from dozens of loudspeakers.

A group of 10,000 young Cubans, including gymnasts and karate fighters robed in white, injected a carnival-like atmosphere to the Havana march, cheering and waving

to the Cuban leader. Similar parades were held across the island and Cuban workers' leaders said nearly a third of the island's more than 10 million people were involved.

President Castro has firmly rejected the Western-leaning economic and political reforms embraced by former communist allies in Eastern Europe and has insisted Cuba will never abandon socialism or return to capitalism.

"Socialism or Death" and "Viva Fidel" were the most common messages displayed in the sea of banners and red and black flags that fluttered above the marchers in Havana.

In a brief address to the huge crowd in the capital, Senior Pedro Ross, head of the Cuban Workers' Union, called on Cuban workers to unite against external pressure on Cuba to abandon socialism.

"Faced with the complex panorama of today's world, Cuba's example takes on a special significance. We have faith in the workers of the world," Senior Ross said.

In Ethiopia, President Mengistu admitted civil war

setbacks in a May Day speech and lamented that popular support for his Government's cause was sagging. "The mood of the people is no longer as militant as it once was and the enemies of the country are cashing in on this situation in their bid to break up the country," he told a rally in Addis Ababa.

"In this struggle, victories and setbacks, ups and downs, are common occurrences... It is unbecoming for a great people struggling to build a great country to be adulatory in times of victory and then depressed in times of difficulty," he said.

He warned that "an irreversible historic catastrophe is bound to occur if the time for struggle and sacrifices... is allowed to slip by due to inaction".

Police in Turkey arrested more than 1,000 people in Istanbul in violent May Day demonstrations in which at least two people were shot and wounded. Six policemen were injured in clashes, one seriously, police added.

There was no confirmation whether either of the victims was hit by police fire. Some

Turkish newspapers said more than 30 people were wounded. The demonstrations were held despite a Government ban on May Day rallies after one person was killed and 36 were wounded in May Day clashes last year.

Opponents of the interim Government in Bucharest planned nationwide demonstrations as Romanians celebrated their first May Day in 40 years without organized Communist rallies.

Meanwhile, the non-stop protest against President Iliescu entered its tenth day, and 21 of the anti-Government protesters said they had stopped eating to support demands that he resign.

In Buenos Aires, President Menem injected the Falklands issue into his May Day state of the nation address to Congress, describing the recovery of the islands as the top priority of his Government's foreign policy. However, he also hedged by highlighting the restoration of diplomatic relations with Britain as one of his main aims.

Alongside the traditional May Day trade union marches

in Paris - which drew several thousand people - M Jean-Marie Le Pen has for the last few years carved out his own niche by organizing his mammoth National Front march. His extreme right-wing followers, ranging from the French equivalent of Sloane Rangers, through old soldiers to skinheads do not, of course, march for workers' rights, but for a vision of France for the French.

In glorious sunshine he strode like the president of France he would dearly like to be.

As every year, the march, estimated by police to be around 10,000 people strong, ended at Jean Arc's statue opposite the Louvre where stirring speeches against socialism as the ruin of France were delivered.

There were also protests at Government plans to introduce new anti-racist legislation to protect people not originally of French origin from increasingly common verbal and physical attacks, which the Front says is an attack on freedom of expression.

Loyalist Russians rally in Latvia

From Anatol Lieven
Riga

AS LATVIA prepares for a declaration of independence by its supreme soviet tomorrow, several thousand mainly non-Latvian residents of the republic met at a May Day rally yesterday to oppose the move.

The crowd, mainly Russians, marched under red banners to the embankment of the River Daugava, led by Soviet military bands. They carried placards reading "No to the Lithuanian variant" and "Equal rights for us too". Speakers at the rally seemed to have been deliberately chosen from the small remaining number of ethnic Latvian opponents of independence, but also included several Russian leaders of the Soviet loyalist Interfront movement.

The speeches denounced "the powers that want to restore the social order of the 1920s", and declared that "Latvia can only survive as part of the Soviet Union". The people in the crowd were mainly working class, and showed a measure of class hostility to the "bourgeois intellectuals" in the Latvian Popular Front.

There was also, however, a fair sprinkling of the non-Latvian middle classes, which is worrying for the Popular Front, which is hoping to win their support for independence. A member of the Interfront board, Mr Anatol Belachuk, the head of Aero-Flot in Riga, said that rapid economic separation from the Soviet Union would lead to "unemployment, strikes and conflict".

One of the things that is worrying non-Latvians, most of whom migrated to Latvia under Soviet rule, is the Latvian Citizens' Congress, a body organized by the radical nationalist National Independence Movement. Only citizens of the inter-war Latvian republic and their descendants are eligible to vote for this body, and about half of them have done so. However, those 28,000 non-Latvians who have applied for citizenship in an independent Latvia were permitted to elect delegates without voting rights.

The congress has followed its equivalent in Estonia in claiming to be "the first legally elected body under Soviet occupation", denouncing the supreme soviet as "a part of the occupation system". While meeting on Monday and yesterday, however, it passed a resolution suggesting co-operation with the supreme soviet to achieve independence.

The congress elected a standing committee, including the Lutheran Archbishop Karlis Galitsis, of Riga. It also called for the banning of the Soviet Communist Party in Latvia. Many of its leaders described the non-Latvian population as "illegal immigrants" and "colonists", at a time when many Popular Front moderates regard winning over the non-Latvian population as a priority.

However, the congress draws prestige because, unlike most of the leaders of the Popular Front in all three republics, some of its deputies spent long periods in Soviet prisons as a punishment for their beliefs.

● KIEV - Nationalist groups used May Day celebrations throughout the Ukrainian republic yesterday to call for independence.

In Lvov, a pro-democracy stronghold, the city's mayor led a reported 40,000 in a neo-nationalist rally. In Kiev, the republic's capital, the official parade was much smaller than in recent years and in Harkov, the Ukraine's second biggest city, Rukh activists took over the main body of the parade.

They carried independence flags and shouted "Long live the Communist Party in Chernobyl" and "Freedom for Lithuania". In Odessa a pro-Rukh parade to coincide with the official celebrations was broken up by police.

Poland's far right turns on Jews and Germans

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

SEVERAL hundred Poles shouting "Get the Jew bastards", some of them waving black anarchist banners, charged and besieged an anti-socialist congress convened yesterday by seven extreme nationalist parties. A phalanx of skinheads, engaged by the nationalists, flung percussion grenades and then retreated to a courtyard inside the towering Stalinist Palace of Culture where the congress was being held.

The congress, organized by Mr Janusz Korwin-Mikke of the Union for Realpolitik, was intended as a snub to communists and socialists who have traditionally celebrated May Day as a worker's holiday. The seven parties are on the extreme right and share a belief in the free market, nationalist traditions, and strict Catholic values. As discussion in the congress showed, many also hold anti-Semitic and anti-German views.

The congress bookstalls sold the anti-Semitic forgery, *Protocols of Zion*, and piles of pamphlets outlining a conspiracy between Jews and communists. With local council elections due later this month, and parliamentary elections next spring, the extreme right is trying to work out a common platform with the centre-right. So far they have only common enemies.

There was certainly fierce criticism yesterday of important figures in the Solidarity leadership. Mr Jacek Kwiecinski, a 47-year-old journalist from the Liberal-Democracy (Independence) Party, lashed into Mr Adam Michnik, the Solidarity leftist, who is on the Liberal left. "They say that right-wingers are intolerant. But is Michnik a personification of tolerance and love? Yes, he is - but only towards communists."

The left-wingers in Solidarity, argued Mr Kwiecinski, needed to keep communism alive so that they could

portray themselves as being in the centre of the political spectrum.

In the corridors, the skinheads recruited for the occasion were impatient for action. A first whiff came at the beginning of the congress when barely 100 radicals taunted the queue of delegates, a blend of the old who remembered the pre-war nationalist parties, and a dandified young, in short hair and bow ties. "May Day is our holiday," jeered the protesters, until they were shooed away by the skinheads. When the real charges began later in the day, the skinhead bodyguards in made-in-Poland, heavy-duty boots, fought hard. "Remember King Jan Sobieski's tactics," their paunchy commander told them. "Don't attack now; be patient; wait until the snow falls."

"But there ain't no snow, it's really warm," said one of the skinheads, with perfect accuracy.

The rally of the communists - or rather Social Democrats, under the

party's new nomenclature - was an exercise in nostalgia, a very faint echo of the red-flagged parades that used to clog the streets of Warsaw. A crowd of about 5,000, many of them veterans, survivors of the past 45 years of ideological battles and retreats, gathered. The first idea was to march to the Citadel, where 19th-century Polish socialists were executed by tsarist firing squads. But this was a three-mile march, too far for the reformed communists, so they settled for a shuffling funeral cortege through the centre of Warsaw. Exhausted, they listened to Mr Leszek Miller, the 42-year-old party general secretary, as he declared: "They can take away our money, our property, our jobs - but not our dignity, nor our willingness to serve our country."

"Have courage comrades," shouted a lone voice from the already thinning crowd. A band struck up the *Internationale*, so everybody left to buy ice cream.



Mr Michnik: Tolerance and love for communists

Iran and Syria seek dividends in hostage release

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE release of two American hostages in nine days has again demonstrated that the keys to the underground prisons of Beirut lie in Tehran and Damascus.

The two countries, united by fear and hatred of Iraq, are under strong economic pressure to end the feud with the West that have stunted their growth. The Iranian leadership, less secure than that of Syria, has had to move cautiously against fierce objections from anti-Western hardliners, who believe that the spirit of the 1979 revolution is being undermined.

President Rafsanjani, a pragmatist rather than a moderate, has been opposed at every move by hardliners led by Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the former Interior Minister.

The new pragmatism of President Assad of Syria stems from the signals from Moscow that Damascus can no longer count on its generosity. Huge cheap loans and vast military supplies from the Soviet Union allowed him to be the maverick of the Middle East, and a thorn in the side of the moderate leaders of Egypt, Morocco and Jordan.

Since Moscow began cutting back, President Assad has mended his fences with all three countries, culminating in the restoration of diplomatic links with Cairo in January. Given that Syria had worked hardest to undermine the Camp David Middle East peace treaty of 1979, President Assad could not hope for a better relationship with the

United States without patching up his differences with President Mubarak.

Washington, for its part, had strong diplomatic reasons for wanting better ties with President Assad. It has been able to use the link between Damascus and Tehran as a channel for US-Iran contacts without risking serious criticism in the American media.

Relations between Washington and Syria recovered fairly quickly from the setback caused by the involvement of Syrian intelligence officers in an attempt by Nezar Hindawi to smuggle a bomb on to an El Al plane at Heathrow. Britain broke relations over the affair in 1986, and has spurned all overtures since then. It persuaded the United States and the European Community to ban high-level visits to Damascus, but this proved to be a short-lived diplomatic slap on the wrist.

The US-Syrian relationship was back in business by June 1987, with the grudging but public approval of the British Government. It has proved vital in President Bush's efforts to obtain the release of the hostages without negotiating openly with Tehran.

President Bush has thanked both countries for their role, and seems likely to show his pleasure in a tangible form. President Assad will not seriously expect US aid, but he probably assumes that warmer ties will produce trade and diplomatic advantages.

Iran is in a more complicated position. President Rafsanjani will be under pres-

sure to show a dividend for his efforts. Neither the hardliners in Tehran nor the hostage-takers in Lebanon will be easily satisfied.

They might settle for faster progress on the release of the remaining Iranian funds frozen in US banks by President Carter, or for American pressure on Israel in securing the release of imprisoned Palestinians and Lebanese Shia Muslims. Iranian negotiators have made less realistic demands at face-to-face meetings, however. They expect their Western counterparts to haggle, as if at a bazaar.

President Rafsanjani has been working towards this moment for at least 18 months, first as Speaker of the Iranian Parliament and, since last August, as President. It is thought he made up his mind some time in 1988, before the Iran-Iraq ceasefire on August 30, that the Iranian economy could not recover without more trade with the West.

He was pragmatic enough to realize that the hostages, far from being a card to be played, were a liability. But releasing them would be difficult, because it was Iran that created the conditions for them to be kidnapped.

It was Iran's wish to spread its revolution to Lebanon that led to the creation of the terrorist groups. They sprang from efforts by the Iranian movement Hezbollah, the "Party of God", to politicize Lebanon's 1.2 million Shia Muslims. The effect was to create a body of extreme hardliners.

Britain, the former colonial power, was seen as "the little devil", an object of special hatred. However, President Rafsanjani has made a series of overtures towards Britain, each of which was undermined by the militants.

Britain and Iran had had plans to restore full diplomatic relations in February, 1989, but it was then that Ayatollah Khomeini announced his "fatwa" against Salman Rushdie.

The last overture President Rafsanjani made was just after his election to the presidency, when he said he was prepared to use his influence with the hostage-takers. He was promptly attacked by Hojatoleslam Mohtashemi.

This bodes ill for the British hostages. It is generally accepted that they are most likely to be released as a result of the resumption of normal relations. However, the Government is unwilling to hold talks until Tehran makes what it calls "a gesture", which amounts to demanding preconditions. Its caution is understandable, but without more flexibility the British hostages could be the last to see the daylight.



Tasting freedom: A jubilant Mr Frank Reed, top, arriving in Frankfurt yesterday, and Mr Robert Pohill and his wife meeting President Bush at the White House

Reed seeks confirmation of his return to real life

From Ian Murray, Bonn

BLINKING in the strong spring sunshine, Mr Frank Reed flew into the United States Air Force Rhein-Main base at Frankfurt yesterday morning, the second American hostage from Beirut in just over a week to take the same route through Damascus to freedom.

At the base, when he emerged on the steps of the C141 Starlifter which had brought him from Damascus, he was given a VIP welcome. Saluted by an honour guard of American airmen, he walked along a red carpet to be greeted by Mr Alexander Rattay, the American Consul General in Frankfurt. On the way he gave a victory sign and a kiss to the cheering clapping air men. Suddenly he stopped and touched the ground as though wanting to be sure that it was all real.

After being blindfolded for much of the 43 months he spent in captivity, he seemed not quite sure of where to put his feet and seemed not so fit as Professor Robert Pohill, who was released a week earlier and had been hooded only briefly during his time as a prisoner. A medical report issued after Mr Reed's arrival at the Lindsey Air Force Hospital in Wiesbaden said he was tired and weak after his ordeal. "He has lost signifi-

cant weight and muscle mass from a lack of exercise and a marginal diet," it said. He otherwise felt well.

Mr Reed's Syrian-born wife Fahima ("Fifi") and their son Tarek, aged nine, flew in from Boston. They were able to join him in his hospital suite, where he chatted to staff and Washington officials about his ordeal. He was hungry and ordered beer and a medium-rare steak for lunch.

During the next few days, while medical tests continue, he is expected to undergo a preliminary debriefing by State Department experts seeking clues which will help to win the release of other hostages held in Lebanon. Because he spent so long blindfolded, however, Mr Reed is not expected to be able to give as much information as Professor Pohill, who has been able to confirm that he was for at least some of the time held with other hostages.

Mr Reed, too, may not have been on his own throughout his captivity. He said at a news conference before leaving Damascus that "we were given fresh clothes... books to read and occasional TV," which suggests that he was not alone.

Mr Reed said that he turned down the offer to watch television "because I didn't

want to be entertained when I had lost my freedom". Psychanalysts studying his case regard this type of firmness as a crucial factor in keeping mentally balanced during prolonged confinement and uncertainty.

In public statements since his release, Mr Reed has been diplomatically careful to thank the Syrians for their part in winning his release and to exonerate the Lebanese people from any blame for his captivity. This is in contrast to Professor Pohill, who said it was anger about his captors which kept him sane during his captivity.

THE HAGUE: American and Iranian officials met here yesterday for talks on financial disputes arising from the 1979 revolution in Iran and Tehran's 444-day detention of US hostages. Mr Abraham Sofaer, the US State Department legal adviser, flew to The Netherlands for talks with Mr Goudarz Eftekhari, his Iranian counterpart, over cases before the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, the American Embassy said. The tribunal, set up in 1981 under an accord which freed 52 US hostages in Tehran, seeks to settle financial claims made by both countries. Yesterday's was the eighth in a series of talks which began last summer. (Reuters)

US records big fall in deaths from terrorism

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE level of international terrorism dropped by 38 per cent last year, from 856 incidents in 1988 to 528, according to the State Department's latest annual report.

The number of victims worldwide fell from 638 killed and 1,125 wounded to 390 killed and 397 wounded. The only terrorist "spectacular" last year was the bombing of a French commercial airliner over Niger last September, which accounted for 171 deaths.

The report, Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1989, attributed the "major decrease" in terrorism to infighting within the Abu Nidal organization, the renunciation of violence by Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, the end of the Afghan Government's terrorist campaign in Pakistan, the reluctance of states such as Libya and Syria to be found sponsoring terrorists, and improved counter-terrorism measures.

Terrorist "spectaculars" like aircraft bombings and hijackings "may be becoming more rare" as terrorists find them harder to carry out and fail to achieve their goals, the report said.

However, it cautions that the level of terrorism could well increase again, because of increasing rivalries in the Middle East, the continuing threat posed by Basque and Northern Ireland terrorists, the desire of terrorists in the Philippines to see the US withdraw, and the danger from diehard supporters of General Manuel Noriega in Panama.

"We cannot become complacent. Terrorism is an ongoing threat, and we must continue to oppose it vigorously," said Mr Morris Busby, US co-ordinator for counter-terrorism, in his foreword.

Although the report was released on the day that President Bush publicly thanked both Syria and Iran for their roles in the release of US hostage Mr Frank Reed, it lists both countries among six nations accused of sponsoring terrorism. The other four are Cuba,

South Yemen, Libya and North Korea. Their inclusion subjects them to US trade restrictions.

Iranian-sponsored terrorism incidents dropped from 32 to 28 but Iran remained the worst offender, its "extensive" support for terrorism continuing despite the death of Ayatollah Khomeini last June. A number of the incidents were caused by Khomeini's call for the death of Salman Rushdie, the British author of *The Satanic Verses*.

Criticism of Syria, which is seeking improved relations with the US, was muted, but the report accused it of providing sanctuary for a wide variety of international terrorist groups including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the organization accused of the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie.

US concern had been repeatedly expressed to Syria, which had made some effort to improve its record. "To date the US Government is not satisfied with the Syrian Government's responses," the report said.

In all, there were international terrorist incidents in 60 countries against the citizens or property of 74 nations. Middle Eastern terrorism accounted for 45 per cent of the 528 incidents, with Latin America accounting for 131, or a quarter of the attacks, and Western Europe for 96 attacks. There were only four international terrorist attacks in North America, but there were 165 attacks against US interests abroad, more than any other country.

International terrorist incidents in the UK rose to 10 from four in 1988, with attacks on bookshops selling *The Satanic Verses* accounting for the increase.

Twenty-three Iranians were arrested and deported during the year, and one blew himself up while priming a bomb. British interests were also attacked in Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Peru, West Germany, Iraq and Lebanon.

"The UK was a leader in international efforts to combat terrorism in 1989," the report noted.

Jerusalem priests clash with police

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

AS THE majority of the 150 militant Jewish settlers occupying a disputed hostel in the Christian quarter of the Old City evacuated the building yesterday, angry Greek Orthodox priests in their distinctive black hats and surplices jostled with police and settlers in a vain attempt to enter the hostel and check its condition. By midday yesterday, 130 of the settlers who moved into the hostel just before Easter had discreetly melted away.

But 20 remained behind, as authorized by last week's Supreme Court decision, as agents of the Panama-based company which claims to have bought the lease on the hostel, known as St John's Hospice. The hostel is owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. "We just came to see if those who should have left have done so," one priest said, clearly distraught. "But even the police will not give us permission."

The dispute over the lease has still to be settled by the

Israeli courts. The Christian community in the Old City, however, strongly suspects that those settlers who have gone fully intend to return.

Mr Shmuel Eviatar, a spokesman for the settlers' group, said: "The honour of the court, and our desire to fulfil not only the letter but also the spirit of the law, have led us to retain only 20 tenants in the building holding the keys." But he added that the mysterious Panamanian front company had the cash to buy other buildings in the Old City in which Jews could settle.

The US State Department and American Jewish groups were angered and dismayed last week that the Israeli Government led by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the transition Prime Minister, had made available \$1.8 million (£1.1 million) in official funds to enable the settlers to move in. Their action was the first attempt by Jews to move into the Christian Quarter since Israel captured the Old City from the Jordanians in 1967.

Tehran split over talks with West

From Juan Carlos Guncuio, west Beirut

THE release of the two US hostages in recent weeks is intensifying the political battle in Iran over the issue of improving relations with the West. The course of events in Tehran in the coming weeks will be crucial for the fate of the remaining hostages, and perhaps even for President Rafsanjani's own political fortunes.

Yesterday he was trying to defuse a crisis provoked by suggestions that he is inclined towards direct talks with the US within the atmosphere of *détente* created by the release of Professor Robert Pohill and Mr Frank Reed.

Mr Masih Mohajer, the President's adviser on social affairs, was instructed to declare publicly that this view — exposed by Hojatoleslam Mohajerani, the Vice-President, in a newspaper article

last week — does not reflect official policy. President Rafsanjani's move to distance himself from Hojatoleslam Mohajerani is a revealing indication that the Iranian leader is feeling vulnerable to hardline criticism.

Tehran's militant establishment, led by Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, regards any attempt to promote dialogue with the US as tantamount to treason to Ayatollah Khomeini's revolutionary legacy.

It was no surprise, therefore, that only hours after Hojatoleslam Mohajerani's article appeared, militant students held a rally at Tehran University to condemn "simple-minded people". Mr Mohtashemi accused the Government of "begging for mercy from the Great Satan" and of preparing the burial of the Islamic revolution.

Soldiers pull out of Tibet

Peking — Chinese troops began withdrawing from the Tibetan capital of Lhasa yesterday as martial law was lifted nearly 14 months after pro-independence protests gripped the city.

Mr Hu Jintao, the Communist Party secretary in Tibet, reviewing the troops in front of the Buddhist shrine of Jokhang Temple, praised them for "their great contribution to stabilizing the situation in Lhasa". (Reuters)

Miners captured

Quito — Armed men in Colombian military uniforms kidnapped Mr Scott Heyndal, an American miner, and Senator Edwin Rodrigo Teneda, an Ecuadorian, after attacking their expedition. (AFP)

Attack backfires

Manila — Two Philippines communist guerrillas died when the hand grenade they threw, at a group of soldiers refuelling their vehicle in Bulacan province, hit a wall and bounced back at them. (Reuters)

Viking find

Copenhagen — Danish archaeologists are working to excavate a 1,000-year-old Viking graveyard before a motorway obliterated it near Kindertofte on Zealand island. (Reuters)

Jet crash

Goose Bay, Newfoundland — Two crewmen escaped injury when their RAF Tornado crashed near a Canadian base here during a training flight. (Reuters)

Beggars killed

Chittagong — Thirty-four beggars died and at least 100 were injured in a stampede for traditional gifts of clothing and money from city businessmen. (Reuters)

Optimism as talks open in South Africa

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

THE hopes and fears of South Africa's disparate communities will be laid on the negotiating table today when the Government and the African National Congress begin formal peace talks in the historic setting of a 17th century Cape Dutch estate.

After generations of hostility, the occasion is being compared by the local media with the first meeting between President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and in South African terms the analogy is less extravagant than it might seem. In effect, the gathering of the erstwhile enemies presages the end of apartheid and its eventual replacement by a power-sharing arrangement with the black majority.

Both sides have given warnings against unrealistic expectations from the first round of discussions, which will deal only with perceived obstacles to broader negotiations on constitutional reforms.

The ANC's principal demands are for the state of emergency to be lifted, all political prisoners to be released, and political trials to be halted, while the Government insists the ANC must abandon its armed struggle. None of the issues is regarded as insoluble, despite strident voices on the radical fringes of both constituencies, and a mood of cautious optimism prevails.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Government's chief negotiator, accepts the need to rescind emergency security laws and review political detentions. "But we also have a responsibility to the public to ensure that when we lift certain

restrictions, there is a reasonable certainty that law and order will be maintained."

Mr Patrick Lekota, the spokesman for the ANC delegation, said yesterday it was approaching the scheduled three days of talks with enthusiasm. He added: "We are determined to remove the obstacles which are hampering negotiations. We consider ourselves obligated to the whole country to make the maximum effort to find a common ground and eliminate tensions between black and white people."

He said the ANC was indebted to the majority of whites who had supported the Government in opening negotiations, as well as to the international community for its support. "We will do everything in our power to make a success of the present exercise."

Mr Lekota added that ANC morale was high, despite persistent criticism of its stance by the more militant Pan-Africanist Congress and Azanian People's Organisation. "This criticism is not well founded. We are only engaging in talks about talks, to create a climate for negotiations in which everyone can participate."

Optimism is fuelled by the mutual respect which has developed between President de Klerk, who is leading the government team, and Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president. In key supporting roles, the keen intellect of Dr Viljoen is matched by the astuteness of Mr Thabo Mbeki, the urban ANC director of international relations.

R. W. Johnson, page 12

The new American dream: getting rich quick giving advice on how to go broke

From Charles Bremner, New York

THESE are disorientating times for younger Americans. After a childhood of suburban ease and coming of age in the years of endless promise, they are now struggling to adjust to a life of contracting limits not suffered by their parents.

Many millions born in the 1950s and 1960s have woken up to find they cannot afford the cars and houses and comforts that they believed were theirs for life. Their hardship can be glimpsed in the countless magazine articles with tips on getting by without the second car, and facing up to the fact that, with a shrinking population, you must discard for ever the notion that owning a house is a guaranteed source of income.

Across the country, Debtors Anonymous, a self-help society for compulsive overspenders, is opening chapters in even the smallest of towns. In New York, the subways and bus shelters are full of advertisements for firms offering to help save you from financial disaster — for a hefty fee. Now, with the housing market contracting, salaries falling behind inflation, and

heavy unemployment in once high-paying reaches of the financial world, the wolf is looming through the smoke-placed door even for many hard-working, Dinkie (dual income no kids) couples.

Over recent months two trends have appeared to confirm the anxiety and worry of the authorities: a fashion for declaring bankruptcy and a boom in "get rich quick" advice. With so many respected corporations "seeking protection" as the euphemism puts it, the personal debt seems mild, especially when even those disgraced in the courts seem able to work the laws to their advantage.

That was the message from the downfall of Mr Michael Milken, the "junk bond genius" who agreed to pay a \$600 million (£366 million) fine last week. It turned out that he will be able to save a substantial part of his fortune by deducting \$400 million out of the fine against his income taxes, because it represents "restitution" to victims.

Last year nearly 700,000 citizens filed personal bankruptcy petitions, 12 per cent more than the previous year,

and the figure is expected to leap much higher in 1990. Among the better known names were Morton Downey, Jr, a television talk-show host, and Francis Ford Coppola, the film director. The charm of personal bankruptcy is that you are often allowed to keep considerable assets while wiping clean the slate. Angry creditors can no longer harass a debtor and the bailiffs may no longer evict you.

In some states such as Florida, an indigent may keep a house and up to 160 acres —

a situation that causes many impending "deadbeats" to make a quick flit to the Sunshine State. Such was the action of Mr Bowie Kuhn, the former commissioner of baseball, when his New Jersey law firm went under last year.

In Texas, they do even better. One property developer recently convinced a court that his Houston office tower, complete with penthouse and swimming pool, was his personal "homestead". The Texas legislature recently debated, but then rejected, a provision to prevent creditors from taking a debtor's private jet.

It is not surprising that a leading authority for impecunious Americans is the Texas-based bankruptcy newsletter called *Fresh Start*. Further advice is now on offer in "How to File for Bankruptcy", a breezy do-it-yourself guide by three lawyers. With money shrinking yet so much of the stuff so visible, millions are being made by entrepreneurs convincing citizens that if Mr Donald Trump can do it, so can they — overnight.

But, after all the gloomy news, anguished young

Americans found cause for hope this week. Two influential magazines pronounced that salvation was fast on the way for the Baby Boom generation from a very old-fashioned source — inheritance. "Baby-boomers will hit an \$8 trillion inheritance jackpot, a staggering transfer of wealth that will change the nation," said *US News and World Report*.

In its study, *Fortune* magazine said the result would "be a social watershed: the biggest inter-generational transfer of wealth in US history". "Parents must weigh the risk of arousing a child's greed against the benefit of leaving him prepared — emotionally and financially — to handle an estate," the magazine warned.

The prospect of all these money-laden heirs once again cruising the markets for BMW's — or their Japanese replacements — already has the farther-sighted marketers of Madison Avenue hard at work.

The question now is to come up with products that will appeal to the new-rich middle-aged survivors of Woodstock.



Mr Milken: Getting some Treasury aid with his fine

Cracks show in the wall of Spanish socialism

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

SEÑORA Carmen Romero de González, a socialist MP from Cadiz, was applauded from the sidelines as she marched in the May Day demonstration staged here yesterday by Spain's two principal trade union organizations.

The applause was not for her husband, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister. It was for her, precisely because she chose to identify herself with the left-wing opposition to the Socialist Government.

The presence of Señora Romero de González was symptomatic of the cracks that have developed in the formerly solid wall of Spanish socialism as the Government slips through its third term of office, having failed last October, for the first time since 1982, to win an absolute majority in Parliament. The cracks have spread upward to the very cupola of power.

She stood close to Señor Nicolás Redondo, the General Labour Union's secretary general, at the end of the march when he addressed the gathering, saying that the Government "is more like a right-wing government than a socialist one". Among their fellow marchers were wives of paramilitary Civil Guard policemen, demanding their

husbands' right to form a trade union. Several of the men have been imprisoned because the Government refuses to recognize that right.

It was the second successive year that the socialist General Labour Union marched side by side with the communist Workers' Commissions trade union, in a defiant gesture of independence from the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), which it spawned a century ago.

The May Day march came one day after Señor Ricardo García Damborenea, who was the most outspoken left-wing dissident within the PSOE, registered a new party, Social Democracy, under his own



Señora González: Cheers for supporting opposition

leadership. His decision to leave the Government party and turn his "current of opinion" into a new party was prompted by an order from the PSOE leadership suspending him from all activity within the party for two years.

Señor García Damborenea's walkout came less than two months before the regional elections in Andalusia, where the Socialist Party is by far the strongest but is suffering from an internal power struggle.

Only last month the centrist faction, led by Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister, succeeded in imposing its candidate for the Andalusian regional presidency, Señor Manuel Chaves, formerly the Labour Minister, and thus denied support for Señor José Rodríguez de la Borbolla, the incumbent, who is a fellow Socialist.

Señor García Damborenea's says his splinter party aims to occupy the space which the Socialist Party has vacated with its shift to the right. However, it is probably too late for Social Democracy to take part in the Andalusian elections, which are scheduled for June 23. The acid test for the new party will come next December, in the Basque regional elections, especially

considering that its leader is from that region.

Señor Joaquín Leguina, the Socialist president of the Madrid regional government, has also fallen out of favour with Señor Guerra, who is more powerful within the party than the Secretary General, Señor González himself.

Recalling a Spanish proverb which says: "When you see your neighbour's beard cut off, start soaking your own," Señor Leguina said, following the party's failure to renew its support for the Andalusian regional leader: "I'm soaking my whiskers every day."

Revelations of corruption which have tainted both main parties, the PSOE and the Popular Party, may reduce the big parties' support at the polls in favour of smaller and regional groups. Perhaps the Andalusian elections will give some indication of such a tendency.

One scandal involves a brother of Señor Guerra, who allegedly used a government office to conduct private, not state, business.

Señor González's determined loyalty to Señor Guerra could get the Prime Minister himself into political trouble. There is already muted dissent within the Cabinet about the handling of the Guerra affair.



Firing line: South Korean riot police launching tear gas grenades in a clash with radical students after an anti-government demonstration in Seoul yesterday

Strikers paralyse Korean factories

Ulsan, South Korea

MOST factories in Ulsan, the power base of South Korea's biggest exporter, Hyundai, were paralysed yesterday as workers joined strikes to protest over a police raid on Hyundai's shipyard.

Outside the south-eastern city, however, no large-scale strikes were reported in spite of earlier fears of nationwide walkouts on May Day. Witnesses said workers were blocked by a huge police force that thwarted plans for rallies in the key Masan-Changwon industrial area of the city. Two thousand workers clashed with riot police, they said.

Hyundai Motor Company's 22,000 workers marched peacefully through Ulsan after voting to strike for two more days until next Monday. Wednesday and Saturday are national holidays in South Korea. Seventeen thousand students clashed with riot police firing tear gas in Seoul and other cities in anti-government demonstrations.

Police raided the shipyard at dawn on Saturday to evict several thousand striking workers who were protesting against the arrest of union leaders. The raid ignited fury and led to prolonged street battles. (Reuters)

Quayle geared up for serious role in Europe

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

THE office of the Vice-President is very much grander than that of his boss. There is more gold statuary and exotic carving and more portraits in oil than in the Oval Office of the White House.

Vice-President Dan Quayle himself, however, as all the world now knows, is not very grand. When he speaks, he does not exactly fill a room, as a distinguished diplomat pointed out the other day.

The man who will meet Mrs Thatcher on Sunday on his first official European tour is modest—and with reason, say critics. He is no joke, according to a *Time* magazine cover last month proclaiming another "probing look" into the man who would be America's first citizen should anything happen to Mr Bush.

In an interview with British correspondents, Mr Quayle expressed his dislike of the *Time* piece, except for a phrase describing him as a "late bloomer". "That's true," he said, "and you can quote that." Sitting on his antique desk, between a life-size toy dog and a spray-painted chunk of the Berlin Wall, he gave the impression of a naturally patient man.

Officially Mr Quayle is

visiting London, Paris and Rome to mark the centenary of the birth of Eisenhower, the wartime leader and former President but, although there have been strong hints from the State Department that he should not be allowed anywhere near the political minefields of Europe, he firmly dismissed the idea that his visit was pure ceremony. It was, he said, a serious part of the allied discussions on the future of Nato.

He has a very engaging confidence. His record may be slight—too slight as yet to bear either the exaggerated criticism or the raves from his journalistic fan club—but Mrs Thatcher will find him an attractive interlocutor. He shares her caution about "changing institutions". "Patience is a virtue," he told us, "and being cautious is part of doing the right thing."

"The contribution of Nato is unparalleled in history. We must accommodate changes but there are some things we don't want to change—and peace and deterrence are two of them."

Mr Quayle is also very well briefed. He has had the confidence to assemble around him a team which can compensate to a considerable extent for any academic deficiencies.

According to *Time*, he spent 25 years "blissfully Awol from history". The magazine quotes one of his teachers as saying: "I looked into those blue eyes and I might as well have been looking out of the window."

Now, however, he has the support of conservative heavyweights on his staff who are at least a match for their equivalents in the empire of Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State.

The rivalry between the two camps is still palpable in Washington, despite attempts to paper over the cracks. The Quayle position on Israel is less outspokenly critical than that of Mr Baker and, on the Soviet Union, he is closer to the scepticism of the Pentagon.

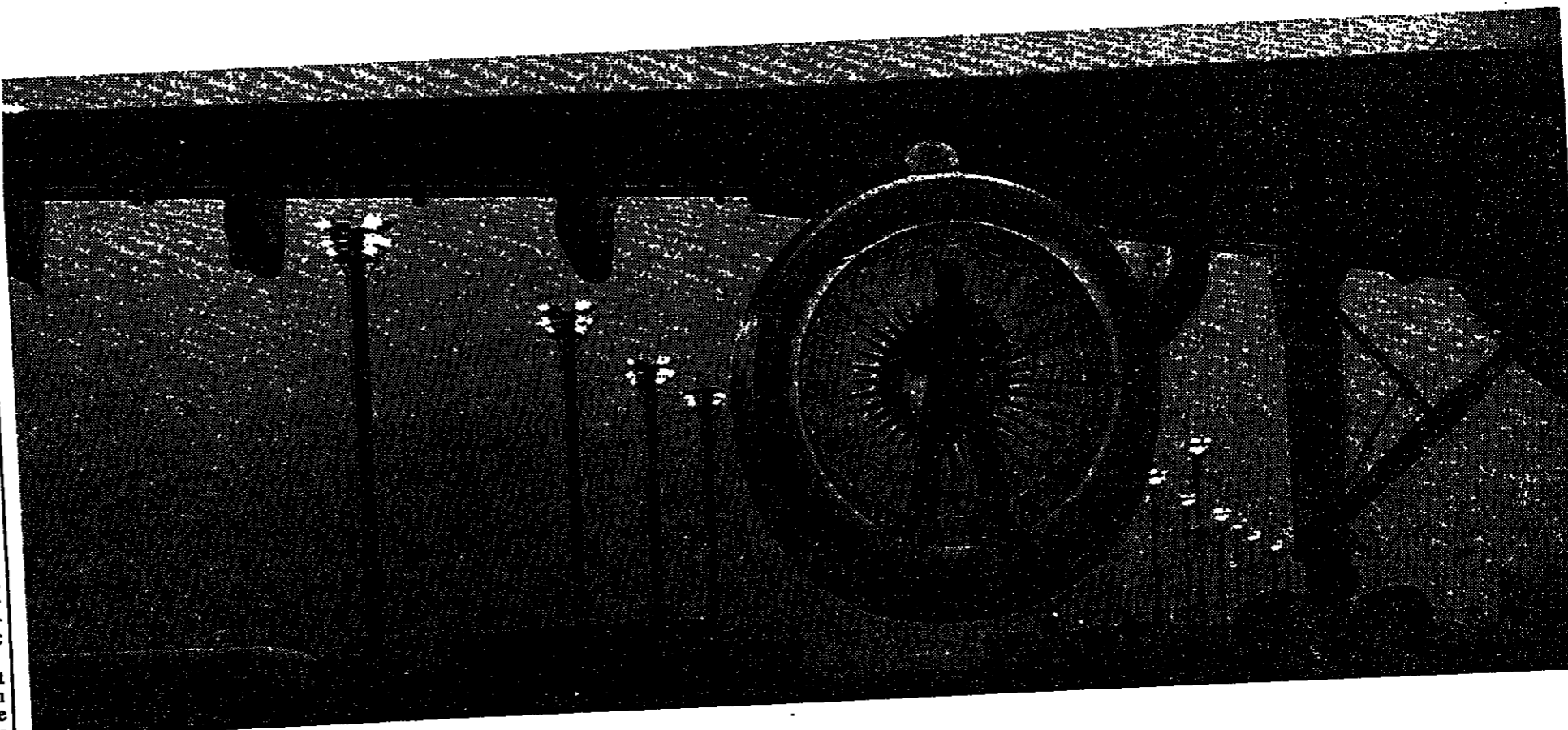
There are recurring stories of Mr Baker's desire to keep open the top space on the Republican ticket in 1996 for himself—an ambition which, if it is to be fulfilled, needs the Quayle image to remain, like his golden office picture frames, somewhat tarnished by their past.

Relations between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Baker are now better than they were a year ago, but when the Prime Minister and the Vice-President review US foreign policy this weekend, they may find themselves much enjoying their special conservative slice of the special relationship.



Mr Quayle: "Awol from history" for 25 years

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Kennedy scion fails bar exam

From Charles Bremner, New York

BANNER headlines on all three tabloids here yesterday were unanimous: "The Hunk Flunks". For the Big Apple, there was no problem decoding the message—it referred to Mr John F. Kennedy Jr, the only citizen who is as famous for failing exams as he is for his good looks.

Declared by a recent magazine to be "the sexiest man alive", the son of the late President had for the second time failed to gain admission to the New York bar. He will be given one more chance before losing his job as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. "I'm clearly not a major legal genius," Mr Kennedy, aged 29, said, promising to take the examination again and again "until I'm 95".

The crown prince of the Kennedy dynasty was upstaged by the offspring of another famous family. Miss Madeline Cuomo, daughter of Mr Mario Cuomo, New York's Governor, cruised through the bar examination at her first try. Mr Kennedy's sister, Caroline, passed a couple of years ago.

New York's most eligible bachelor can, however, take comfort from illustrious precedent: his late Uncle Robert, also a former Manhattan district attorney, failed the test on his first try—which did not stop him going on to become a senator and United States Attorney General.

Mr Kennedy received acres of advice from the local media yesterday, including 10 tips from the *New York Post*. The Number one was: "Ditch the whole thing, go to the beach and let delicious babes chase you for the rest of your life."

priest police

ing rich broke

From gesture to realism

Martin Jacques

Cast your mind back just three years, to early 1987. The campaign against the loony left in Labour councils, spearheaded by Norman Tebbit, then chairman of the Conservative Party, was in full swing. The tabloid press was replete with stories of the lurid actions of London Labour councils. Remember the alleged banning of black bin-liners and outlawing of "Baa baa black sheep" on the grounds of racism? The damage to Labour was enormous.

How the mood has changed, even in an area which until so recently was one of Labour's greatest vulnerabilities. There has been only a mild attempt to revive the old chestnut in the campaign for tomorrow's local elections, and it has completely failed. No doubt the main reason is the transformed political mood, but another is that Labour local councils have travelled a long way since the nightmare days leading up to the last general election.

For much of the 1980s, a new kind of leftism prevailed in many Labour councils. Its followers regarded local government as the front line in the fight against Thatcherism. They engaged in a new brand of gesture politics which saw flags flying above town halls and high-profile stances on racism and sexism. But they also came up with some sharp ideas, notably the GLC's cheap fares policy.

However, well before 1987 the show was in trouble. Gesture politics was on the run. Serious splits began to occur, and the campaigns against rate-capping and in defence of services failed to gain public support. The turning point came in 1987. Until Labour's defeat, much of the new politics rested on the idea of a better tomorrow, the Micawber-like belief that something would turn up. Many Labour councils mortgaged themselves to the hilt in expectation of a Labour victory, and when it did not materialize, they found themselves in a horrendous financial situation.

Almost overnight, a new mood began to grip. The politics of *mañana* gave way to the art of survival. Ideology was rapidly junked in the name of pragmatism. The most startling change concerned the private sector. No longer the demon of old, it has come to be seen by many Labour councils as a crucial partner in local regeneration. Such prestige projects as the Olympics in Manchester, the World Student Games in Sheffield and the convention centre in Birmingham spring to mind, but there are hosts of less well-known examples.

The catalyst for this unlikely affair was necessity: spurred by central government and at their wits' end financially, the Labour councils needed someone to turn to. But necessity has opened eyes

that were previously closed, and many now see a virtue in the new local consensus.

A parallel example is the new interest in Europe. Not only have Labour councils discovered where Brussels is, some have become experts in its financial possibilities. More than one-third of Birmingham's new convention centre, for example, is being funded by the Community. And like the partnership with the private sector, the EC has the advantage of providing Labour councils with a source of power independent of Mrs Thatcher.

There is also a new emphasis among Labour councils on the importance of delivering good services. Complacency and habit have given way, at least partially, to a growing sense that councils have to meet certain standards. There is now a preoccupation with efficiency and good management. Ironically, this has been encouraged by the introduction of compulsory competitive tendering, which has obliged local authorities to ask questions which previously barely occurred to them, such as the function of a particular service or its efficiency. Meanwhile, the politics which was emblematic of the previous era has been pushed to the margins. Non-cooperation by Labour councils has wilted. When it came to the poll tax, only Lambeth and Liverpool declined to fix a level, and they soon beat a hasty retreat. The crasser forms of gesture politics are now barely visible, and even equal opportunities and police committees have slipped down the agenda.

Kinnockism has triumphed. The new strategy is about pragmatism and realism. Ideology is out. The new message is that councils should work with everybody and anybody to deliver the goods. That's one theme. The other is the fight for survival. Local government is very hard up, and soon will be more so. Permanent staff are deeply demoralized. In London in particular, there is a serious shortage of candidates for council elections. Like teaching, local government is no place to be in 1990.

The casualty in all this is radical new thinking. It is difficult to innovate in a climate of cuts. And the new realism places a higher premium on sobriety than on imagination. None the less, there are new ideas at the margins. There is a growing belief that the old model of local government as administration is no longer appropriate. There is talk of an enabling model, in which what matters is not that the local authority itself should provide the service, but that it should be available and of good quality. Such thinking will need a lot more exposure if local government is to find a solution not only to Thatcherism but to its own crisis of credibility.

Martin Jacques will be writing a weekly column on this page.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The publisher of *GQ* magazine was disappointed recently to discover that his readers were liars. Asked in a survey to state which parts of the magazine they read, few admitted to liking fashion features. Undercover investigations revealed the truth to be rather different. In fact they liked fashion features best of all but, being men, were not prepared to admit it to a stranger.

Over the past few years, newspapers and magazines have become increasingly reliant on readership surveys. At the moment, jokes and restaurant reviews, my own specialities, are enjoying something of a boom, but with the green revolution well under way, something tells me that it won't be long before people will be too embarrassed to admit to such frivolities, and I will be forced to change my act to incorporate consumer tests of different rainforest-free mueslis specially written for the new joke-free zones in our national press.

If readers were utterly honest to these surveys, the print industry would go haywire. My own observations suggest that on trains and buses, up to 98 per cent prefer to read the newspaper brought by the person next to them, even if it is the very same newspaper that they have already bought.

Often, one can spot two strangers, each with his eyes surreptitiously fixed on the other's open pages. One of them then makes a sudden shuffling movement or a cough, and immediately both sets of eyes swing back to their own paper. Ten seconds later, slowly but surely, both sets of eyes drift sideways once again. Sports pages, business news, news from Canada - all sections I traditionally shun - take on a curious fascination if observed over someone else's shoulder at a suitably wonky angle.

I have never known a readership survey to unearth such a glaring truth, however, and, even if it had, it would be hard to know how the newspapers should respond. An advertising campaign urging people to buy the newspaper best suited to the person in the seat next to them would, I suspect, be doomed. At surveys should know that I

devote much of my newspaper-reading time to scanning the areas untouched by journalists. I start at Forthcoming Marriages, wondering at the suitability of each attachment and generally concluding, on the strength of names, addresses and parentage, that the man sounds as rum as can be and that the poor woman should call it off as fast as she can.

From there, my eyes trip to Appointments, and I spend a great deal of time wondering whether I might possibly be better off becoming Chief Sales Executive for a Major Pharmaceuticals Firm opening up a new office in the Middle East. Then I am beset by worries about whether the climate would suit me, whether I could manage without alcohol, whether I know anything whatsoever about pharmaceuticals, and so on, usually deciding with no little regret that I am probably better off staying put.

Much of my reading takes place without a printed page in sight. Who can resist the lure of the small-print Conditions for Entry for the competition on the back of the cereal packet? Who has not scanned a street of shiny doorplates? (I can recommend any back street in Vienna for a particularly long and gripping read.) The most casual of glances at art galleries reveals far more people reading the titles of paintings than looking at the paintings themselves.

Ribald slogans on T-shirts, names and positions occupied on the lapels of executives as they wander purposefully in the foyers of hotels, the chillingly severe warnings against subletting to be found in the opening seconds of hired videos, signposts on roads announcing twin towns and encouraging safe drivers: flashing neon weather reports and apologies for inconvenience at major railway stations; graffiti chalked into the dust of passing lorries: the world is there to be read, and most of it was not written by writers.

I only wish that aeroplane skywriting was as popular in real life as it is used to be in children's comics. To read a newspaper in the sky, preferably over someone's shoulder, would indeed be very heaven.

Despite the thaw, Michael Evans sees a continuing need for an airborne early-warning system

Old warhorse still pulling its weight

The crash of a Shackleton early-warning aircraft, and the death of its 10-man crew, seems like an accident in a time warp. One of the RAF's oldest planes, it has an airframe that conjures up images of the Second World War and an obsolete radar system which is incapable of differentiating accurately between a civilian plane and a hostile low-flying jet-fighter.

Yet for as long as I can remember, this RAF stalwart has fulfilled a valuable role in Britain's air defence system, providing airborne early warning of potentially hostile intrusions into British air space. It is a role which from March 1991 will be progressively taken over by the US Awacs which the Government decided to buy for the RAF after scrapping the British Nimrod early-warning aircraft programme in December 1986.

But when the Government finally decides how to reshape Britain's armed forces, following its "options for change" review, will there still be a requirement to

buy seven Awacs to protect our air space from low-flying Soviet fighters and wave-hopping cruise missiles, now that the threat appears to have receded?

Whatever changes are made in force levels in response to the political developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the defence of the United Kingdom's air space will remain a fundamental responsibility of the Government. Furthermore, some capabilities must be protected from cuts in the future, including early-warning systems, intelligence-gathering and reconnaissance. These areas will become increasingly important, for they will provide Britain and the Nato alliance with vital information about any changes in Soviet military intentions over the next few years. The Awacs will need to be seen in this context.

Comparisons between the radar operated by an E-3 Sentry Awacs and the Shackleton show clearly why the RAF has been anxious for a number of years to resolve the airborne early-warning issue. The

Shackleton, using a first-generation radar taken from the old naval Gannets, normally flies up to 200 miles out to sea. The radar has a range of about 100 miles. So if a hostile fighter approached the British coastline at 600 mph, air defence Phantoms would have 30 minutes to mount a counter-attack.

The Government's choice of the American Awacs instead of the British Aerospace/GEC Avionics Nimrod AEW was based on technical reasons. The E-3 Sentry meets or exceeds RAF requirements in all significant areas, and is a major advance beyond the Shackleton in terms of technology. It has an effective radar range of about 250 nautical miles and can track 400 targets simultaneously. Nimrod never looked as if it would meet these requirements. Of 20 flights carried out with Nimrod during the Ministry of Defence's evaluation of the system, only three were viewed as providing suitable data.

The Nimrod airborne early-warning (AEW) programme,

which began in 1977, cost more than £900 million, and it was thought that a further £660 million was needed to finish the project. The original contract, signed in March 1977, called for Nimrod AEWs to be available for RAF training in May 1982 and for operational service in April 1984.

Shackletons continued flying as the AEW issue became a considerable political embarrassment. But why an airborne system when there are increasingly sophisticated ground-based versions? First, because ground radar stations would be prime targets at the start of a war, and second, because airborne systems provide much longer-range surveillance than most land-based radars, and have the ability to pick up low-flying aircraft and cruise missiles.

The exception is the new American over-the-horizon "backscatter" early-warning radar, the first of which, situated in Maine, on the eastern seaboard of the United States, is due to be formally handed over to the US Air Force in a few months' time.

The long chain of radar antennae which bounce signals off the ionosphere have been designed to detect and track aircraft and cruise missiles flying at any altitude up to 2,000 miles away. The computers are so advanced that they can distinguish genuine targets from all the clutter the signals pick up.

But the over-the-horizon system has taken 20 years to develop and is still not in service. Also, it cannot pick up anything within a range of about 500 miles, because that is the first "skip" distance of the radar signal.

The over-the-horizon system has been developed to detect targets over the sea, whereas Awacs, operating from about 30,000ft, were built primarily to detect targets over land. To satisfy Britain's domestic and Nato commitments, the UK Awacs have been adapted by Boeing for a maritime role. It is clear that an advanced airborne early-warning capability will be required for as long as there is the remotest possibility of a threat to this country.

Sitting down together but such a distance apart

R.W. Johnson considers the extreme pressure on both sides as the ANC and Pretoria start talking about talks

May 2, 1990, is a date which future generations of South African schoolchildren will learn by heart - the day the ANC finally achieved the talks with the South African government which it had been demanding for the previous 70 years.

They will also study with interest the careful arithmetic of the ANC delegation: seven blacks, two whites, one Indian and one coloured. There is a balance of the movement's diplomatic and military wings and also of the older generation of Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu with the rising young stars like Thabo Mbeki. Two members are women.

There are some striking omissions. No room has been found for the most famous of South Africa's troublesome priests, Messrs Tutu, Boesak and Chikane. The United Democratic Front, which led the internal anti-apartheid struggle throughout the 1980s, has minimal representation and, most striking of all, no room has been found for representatives of the Cosatu trade union federation, which has provided the muscle and backbone of black politics.

This may simply mean that the ANC will demand separate representation for Cosatu when full negotiations begin, thus giving itself virtually a second delegation. Others will see in this a sign that the ANC will seek to relegate the unions to a more subordinate position, as Swepso has quickly done in Namibia. It may, however, perhaps be too early to reach such a conclusion - these are just talks about talks, after all.

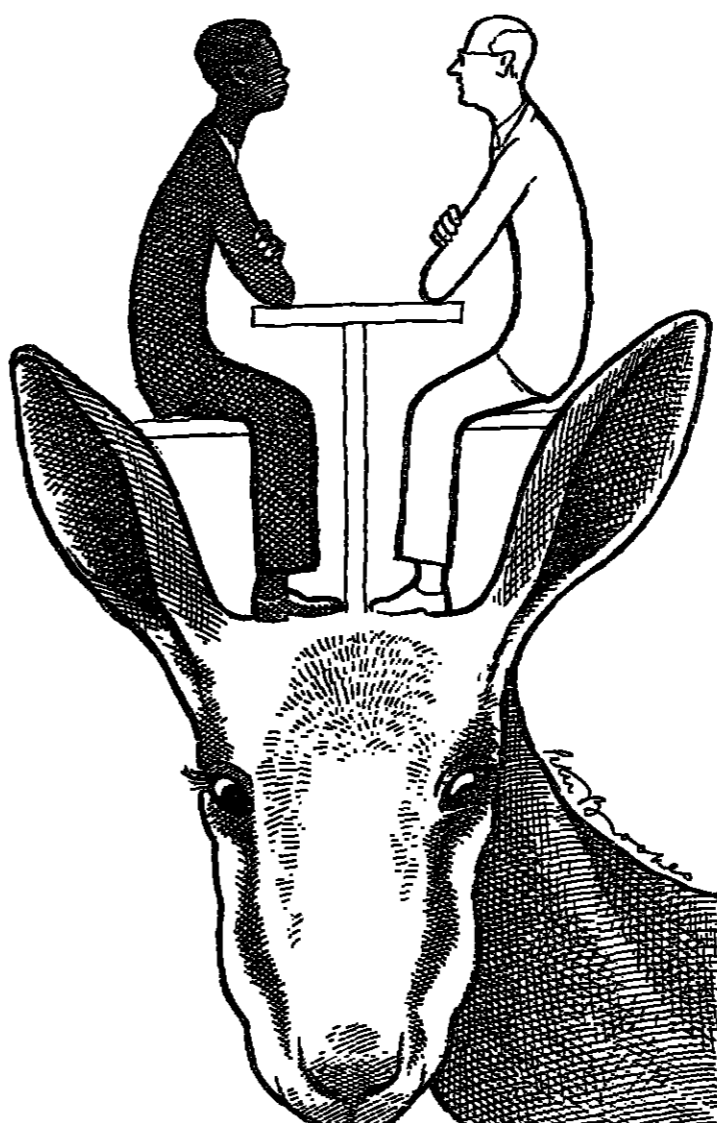
What the ANC would like out of the talks is a complete government amnesty for all anti-apartheid exiles, guerrillas of Umkhonto we Sizwe, its military wing, and political prisoners. De Klerk has already signalled his willingness to tackle this issue but he will hardly give way quickly. Some of those imprisoned, he will argue, have committed acts so violent or criminal that they cannot be pardoned without undermining the law. But he will have a more

general reservation. His recent declaration that the government would not concede majority rule should be read as meaning: "I have made concession after concession and received nothing in return. The white right-wing parties are getting uncomfortably strong - polls suggest they might win if a white election were held now - and I simply cannot afford to make any further concession unless I receive something in return to brandish at the white electorate to show that negotiation is not just another word for a gradual slither to surrender." In particular, de Klerk will argue that a minimal condition for allowing Umkhonto guerrillas to return is for the ANC formally to abandon its commitment to armed struggle.

The ANC will, in turn, find this hard to concede. Thousands of Umkhonto members are sitting in camps in Tanzania still receiving a political education based on the thoughts of Mao. Such men have suffered greatly, live in conditions of great privation, and are quick to accuse the ANC's political leadership of showing insufficient militancy or even of betraying them. To the ears of such men, abandoning the armed struggle could sound dangerously like saying that their sacrifices have been largely in vain and that there is no future role for them.

The ANC cannot risk such an outcome, nor can it afford the prospect of such men being dumped on the tail of the vast black unemployment queue back in South Africa. At the very least they have to come back to jobs - perhaps within the South African Defence Force. But the image of ex-Umkhonto Private Bhengu, as it were, being whipped into shape by a Sergeant Van der Merwe is not much more credible than the notion of Colonel Bhengu taking command over Sgt Van der Merwe. On top of that, the Umkhonto leader, Joe Modise, who is part of the ANC delegation today, is the man accused by Umkhonto dissidents of being responsible for torturing them.

These issues are far too tough



and complex for there to be any realistic hope that agreement on them will come out of this initial three-day meeting. All else apart, the ANC can hardly be seen to call off the armed struggle so quickly and easily without risking accusations from the Pan-Africanist Congress of a sell-out. Such accusations would have a certain resonance for many township, youth and Cosatu militants who are prone to claim that "the only thing to negotiate is the seizure of power", who insist, in other words, that negotiations must be exactly the slither to white surrender that the white right-wing parties so greatly fear.

Similar difficulties attend the

ANC demand for the lifting of the state of emergency and the removal of troops from the townships. De Klerk is bound to point out that since he lifted the ban on black political activity on February 2, more than 300 blacks have been killed in various forms of civil unrest, of whom fewer than 5 per cent have died as a result of white-on-black violence. De Klerk may well be ready to lift the state of emergency in much of the country but he is bound to cite the situation in Natal as a special case requiring a continuing and strong military presence to avoid further bloodshed.

The ANC's problem is that it has made a military withdrawal a

major symbolic demand - one which plays well enough to audiences in Soweto but which has scant appeal in Natal where all observers concur that black opinion is strongly in favour of the troops remaining. Here too, it is difficult to see substantial progress being achieved very quickly.

The danger is that the talks could break down before they really start. The ANC is bound to declare that it is impossible for it to envisage proper negotiations while any of its followers are still languishing in jail, and de Klerk is bound to argue that it is equally impossible to negotiate with an organization which is still committed to an armed struggle. But both Mandela and de Klerk are clearly committed to the negotiation process - and the ANC, having got a bad press for having called off the talks once already, is likely to get most of the blame if they falter now.

The most important point to achieve is, indeed, merely that the talks should go on - perhaps with the formation of a joint government-ANC committee to consider procedures and an agenda. Even this will run into considerable ANC resistance, however: the ANC is bound to worry how the idea of the movement collaborating with the government within some semi-permanent structure is likely to be viewed by radical youths in the townships.

One way out of this is to throw a blanket of secrecy around the talks and the decisions taken. But there have been plenty of secret discussions already and the whole point of today's talks is precisely that they are being conducted before the gaze of the world, and a great weight of expectation lies on all the participants. The talks will be particularly difficult for the ANC, which has in effect no alternative strategy - realistically there can be no return to the armed struggle now.

ANC leaders have long argued that the government would have no alternative but to hold such talks with them in the end. True enough. But now both sides are bound to the other, knowing that if these talks fail there will, unavoidably, just have to be more talks in the future.

The author is a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

No escape, not even in Wales

With the poll tax the hottest issue of the day, it is hardly surprising that David Hunt is increasingly anxious to abandon his job as minister for local government and take up his new post as white Mrs Thatcher's appointed him in her last reshuffle - as Secretary of State for Wales. But with Peter Walker still showing no sign of budging, and the Prime Minister not expected to announce a date for the handover until after tomorrow's local elections, Hunt has not even been able to start clearing his desk at the Environment Department. To add to his tribulations, he returned from a trip up the Thames yesterday with Lady Porter, leader of Westminster City Council, to find that his car had been wheel-clamped. But he had one piece of good fortune. Sixty student nurses planning to lobby him over the poll tax got their ministries in a twist: instead of gathering outside the DoE, it was the Department of Trade and Industry (prop: Nicholas Ridley) that bore the brunt of their fury.

Even when he does move to his new job, Hunt will still be dogged by the poll tax. "It's a burning issue in Wales," says one Whitehall source. "It will take up an enormous amount of time, and he knows it. He can escape only by going to Northern Ireland, which still has rates." Even the poll tax might be preferable to that.

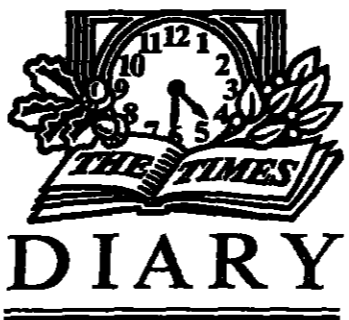
And who might pick up the poll-tax hot potato when Hunt is finally allowed to drop it? The smart money remains on Michael

Portillo, and the wildest Westminster rumour suggests that his promotion could clear the way for Edwina Currie's recall.

Following Labour's plans to recruit expatriate voters, the Government has now revealed that it is spending £760,000 on advertising the rights of overseas voters. Nearly £11,000 is being spent in South Africa and £23,000 in Spain, two areas where the Tories hope to pick up votes. Eire, which Labour describes as its "secret weapon", has been allocated a publicity budget of £100. And who on earth stands to gain most from the £50 advertising campaign in Tristan da Cunha?

Premonitions of old

With speculation growing about Mrs Thatcher's future, the *Diary* confidently predicts that May 10 is the day on which the nation's sand-wich boards will proclaim: "Britain has new Prime Minister". Further confirmation will be found on London's underground, where posters will scream: "Germans drive Prime Minister from Downing Street". But Mrs Thatcher is not about to resign over German unity and the changing face of Europe. A third headline, "Churchill was a mole" - a suggestion even more controversial than Clive Ponting's recent claims - gives a clue to the news. May 10 is the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's accession to the premiership in 1940, and the advertising agency CPS is attempting to whip up trade for one of Whitehall's premier tourist attractions, the underground Cabinet War Rooms.



Not-so-square mile

The formidable Frances Edmonds, who spent a year observing MPs for the waspish book *Members Only*, is now promising to lift the lid off the City of London. She has been signed up for a no-holds-barred account of life in the Square Mile, but to avoid the attentions of litigious City types who are inclined to shower writs like so much confetti, she insists that the book will be a work of fiction. She does admit, though, that the main characters will be based on real-life personalities. Edmonds, who has just returned from covering the English cricket tour of the West Indies with her husband, former Test player Phil, promises that the mixture of fact and fiction "will raise some eyebrows in the City". To protect the moles supplying her with information, she is guaranteeing total confidentiality.

Chasing rainbows?

That bustling centre of international travel, Luton Airport, much maligned since Lorraine Chase revealed that she had been waited in not from

paradise but from lovely Luton, is considering extending the scope of its VIP facilities. The airport boasts a VIP lounge with room for up to 10 dignitaries, but such travellers are few and far between. The change is part of an attempt to try to ensure the lounge is not idle for most of the week, and will mean that for the first time mere MPs will qualify for the full VIP treatment - which at Heathrow only ministers receive. John Carlisle, MP for Luton North, is leading the campaign to attract more VIPs, and hopes to persuade the Prime Minister to grace the lounge in the near future. Asked about the plans, Luton Airport's publicity officer, Beverley Allen, expressed herself rather proud of

They're for Luton Airport's V.I.P.s



the lounge. "It's got carpets and curtains and we had a French diplomat last week. A few months ago we had someone from Neighbours, but I'm not sure who."

Swallow and parrot

Providing that a talking green parrot can be found in time, the Swallows and Amazons Society will be launched in June, 60 years after the appearance of Arthur Ransome's children's classic. The ceremony will take place at the Windermere Steamboat Museum at Bowness; present will be the Amazon, the original boat from the stories, and Brigit Saunders, "the ship's baby" from the Altonian family on whom the Swallows were based. Strangely, Ransome's Utopian dream of waterborne childhood is particularly big in Japan. A four-figure contribution to the Amazon restoration fund has been received from the Japanese Ransome appreciation society, which is to send a delegation to the June launch. Only one element is missing. David Carter, chairman of the putative society, is anxious to find a stand-in for Captain Flint's talking green parrot, one of the heroes of the book. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of such a bird - which should have a suitably nautical turn of phrase without being inclined to obscenity - can get in touch with Mr Carter via this column.

Three weeks ago, European Rail Link, the consortium of British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC which is bidding to build the rail-link to the Channel Tunnel, submitted its plans to the Department of Transport. So sensitive are its proposals for the final leg from Swanley across London to King's Cross that maps were submitted on special paper and drawn with special ink that cannot be photocopied.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

MAY DAY IN MOSCOW

"Christ is risen, Mikhail Sergeyevich!" An Orthodox priest, bearing a cardboard image of the Saviour, paused yesterday before Lenin's mausoleum to beseech the Soviet President and the entire Politburo with these memorable words. Behind him, demonstrators boomed the rostrum in a gesture unthinkable just a year ago. Were they all sounding Mr Gorbachov's death knell? Many who watched May Day in Moscow yesterday must have sensed an era drawing to an unlamented end.

True, the loyal communists who were bused into Red Square in time-honoured fashion greatly outnumbered the assortment of Liberal Democrats, Constitutional Democrats, Social Democrats, anarcho-syndicalists and Christians who raised their banners in peaceful protest. To Western observers, the future has, throughout Eastern Europe, seemed to belong to this well-disciplined, brave and dedicated opposition. But in Russia so many things are different. The alternative is not necessarily a courteous handover of power to a new elite. Instead, there always looms the hideous violence and wanton impiety of the last scene of *Boris Godunov*, lifting the curtain on the dark forces for ever threatening to martyr Mother Russia when the hand of authority weakens.

Like Boris, Mikhail Gorbachov is a flawed, even a tragic hero. His rule has certainly been a blessing for most of his fellow Russians, though less so for the other Soviet peoples. His role in the liberation of central Europe last year alone is sufficient to guarantee him an honourable place in the history books.

But Mr Gorbachov also shares with Boris an inability to escape the stigma of his illegitimate claim to the throne. Mr Gorbachov's Bolshevik forerunners were usurpers. They murdered their predecessors, exterminated their rivals, and have held on to power ever since by methods which have far exceeded those of the tsars in arbitrary cruelty and mendacious self-glorification. Mr Gorbachov may have curbed the systematic distortion of his party's record in office, but he may have unleashed forces which are already beyond his control.

Much that was once dogma has been carried away, but one rock still towers above the flood: Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Debunking of this one Soviet communist patriarch is not tolerated

even under Mr Gorbachov. Lenin is still "the greatest thinker of the twentieth century", his claim resting on the "sublime art" of foresight and pragmatic adaptation of Marxist theory to reality. Mr Gorbachov denies that Lenin saw himself as simply the founder of a theoretical system. He sees him, in essence, as an improviser of genius. He knew how to make things happen; his policies worked. This, Mr Gorbachov maintains, legitimizes *perestroika* (a practical, not a theoretical, notion) as an orthodox variant rather than a heresy.

And yet, "Down with the cult of Lenin!" said one banner yesterday. The May Day protests suggest that Mr Gorbachov has failed to revive the soul of Soviet society with his minimalist version of what was once a visionary creed. If so, he must know it: why else maintain the greatest apparatus of surveillance in human history if not to receive accurate data about the popular protest? Mr Gorbachov does not live in the cloud-cuckoo land of the Caeasus, who appear to have been genuinely astonished by their executioners' enthusiasm.

The Soviet Union itself emerged from what was a class war and proclaimed the ideal of communism as a classless society. Mr Gorbachov is clearly turning his back on much of this. "An intellectual of noble birth, Lenin was part of the people," he remarks. Lenin's upper-class background used to be played down, but is no longer a source of shame for Mr Gorbachov — himself a Cossack, once despised as the tsars' most obedient servants. He should accept Mr Vaclav Havel's alternative to the classless ideal, a "civil society".

Mr Gorbachov's Leninism remains imprecise, committed still to a Soviet supremacy over a restless empire, to a planned economy, to internal market pricing which barely deserves the name and which has delivered only shortages, racketeering, crime and misery. He stood on the rostrum yesterday, no longer the beacon of hope for the oppressed peoples of the East, but an increasingly tarnished dictator of one of Leninism's greatest bastions.

Yet May Day should rest with the priest. Mikhail Sergeyevich could at least defy Lenin's banishment of priests to Siberia. He should remove the remaining restrictions on the practice of Christianity and rehabilitate those Christians his creed so sorely oppressed.

LOVE MY DOG

When a new clause to the Environmental Protection Bill was debated in the Commons on Monday advocating a dog registration scheme, the Government imposed a three-line whip to ensure its defeat. The Conservatives no doubt wished to avoid an embarrassing reverse only days before tomorrow's local elections.

It was, for all that, an inept decision. As the debate was in progress, yet another vicious dog attack on a human was recorded. At Dudley, in the West Midlands, a four-year-old girl was set upon by an Alsatian and a Rottweiler. Injuries to her face required 200 stitches. These ever more numerous, and ever fiercer, animals are by far the most dangerous weapons which members of the public are permitted to keep without any sort of control.

Monday's debate could have taken place only in this country, and in a nation reared on tales of Greyfriars Bobby and Thomas Hardy's dog Wessex. Until a year or so ago, the argument would have been mainly about the plight of strays and the fouling of pavements, but the case for increased control has been strengthened by a spate of dog attacks resulting in injury and even death, many the result of a dramatic rise in the breeding of certain species.

Ten years ago, there were few Rottweilers in Britain: today there are an estimated 180,000 of them. Pit bull terriers are bred specifically for fighting. Earlier on the day that the clause was debated, a pit bull terrier attacked three people in their home at Portsmouth, and was driven off only after a neighbour had tried to prise its jaws open with a garden fork.

Dame Janet Fookes did not come to the Commons with a fully articulated scheme. She argued for acceptance of the principle that all dogs should be registered, that responsibility should rest with the local authority and that

those who failed to register should be fined. The Government was not persuaded that her proposals would meet the "polluter pays" principle which informed the rest of the Bill — the real problem, they contended, was with irresponsible owners who would be the last to comply with registration.

The battle lines were curiously drawn, inside and outside Parliament. Dame Janet's clause had the support of the Police Federation, the National Farmers' Union, the British Veterinary Association and the RSPCA. The Government's main supporter in opposition to registration has been the Kennel Club, which endorsed the Department of the Environment's view that the scheme would be expensive and difficult to enforce.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, the hapless junior minister put up to stonewall on the Government's behalf, did what he could with a brief that allowed him to say that he was looking at the possibility of creating a specific offence of allowing a dog to stray. The Government's wish to make local authorities invoke the long-forgotten Control of Dogs Order of 1930 takes us into A. P. Herbert country, except that it is no longer a laughing matter.

The pressure exerted by the jaws of a Rottweiler is of the order of 400 lbs per square inch. They and other dangerous breeds are increasingly owned by people who, in the RSPCA's phrase, use them as unguided missiles. The Government has unwisely set its face against registration. After this week's horrifying incidents, there should be no further doubt. If there is to be no registration and related penalties, then dogs bred for offensive purposes should immediately be brought within the scope of the Dangerous Animals Act of 1976.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Nearly one in three pedestrians admit to crossing the road when the lights are against them; one in six fail to look first in each direction. A similar proportion of those who travel by rail open doors and clamber in or out when the train is moving. Nearly half of Britain's drivers speed on motorways.

In 1988, 29 people died falling from moving trains. Five were killed and 761 others injured on entering and alighting at stations. A further 406 were injured opening and closing carriage doors. Of all road deaths involving pedestrians in Britain, nearly half are caused by passengers not looking to right and left when leaving the relative safety of the pavement.

An initial reaction to this basket of statistics, from a survey quoted by the Department of Transport yesterday, is to wonder why they seem so low. Nobody visiting Waterloo Station in the rush hour could fail to observe train doors prematurely opening with the precision of a well-drilled *corps de ballet* as Londoners dive precariously to work. The commuters who dart like swallows across Whitehall... those motorists in the fast lane on the M4... all leave the clear impression of a nation bent like lemmings on self-destruction.

One explanation is that this set of modest figures is based only on those who have confessed to their sins. Only 42 per cent of people questioned agreed, for example, that they "sometimes failed" to read safety cards on their aircraft. Only 55 per cent admitted that they never checked the muster points on ferries. Such statistics suggest that far more do indeed offend. The Government is therefore moving in the right direction with its campaign "Safety on the Move", announced by the Transport Secretary, Mr Cecil Parkinson.

An awesome number of these accidents is avoidable. If the Transport Department can persuade more travellers to think the unthinkable it will make some progress towards its declared goal of reducing by one third the shocking number of road deaths (5,000 last year) before the end of this century. There will always be a limit, however, to the results that can be achieved by publicity and educational campaigns.

Britain's overall road accident record compares well with those of other Western European countries. But the numbers involving children are disturbing and have shown a recent (and so far unexplained) increase. These accounted for 13 per cent of all road casualties last year and 7 per cent of all deaths. This alone reinforces the argument for the Government to consider new legislative measures to back up its new publicity campaign.

These should include tighter speed limits on roads, including motorways, with possibly lower limits for motorcyclists and more severe penalties for those who flout the law. The Government's pusillanimity on random breath tests — part of its general indulgence of alcohol abuse — continues to permit far too much drinking before driving. The wearing of belts in the rear seats of cars should long ago have been made compulsory for adults as well as for children.

There might also be legislation on jaywalking, in city centres if not throughout the country. One in three of all road accidents involve a pedestrian. By no means all of these most vulnerable travellers will heed the advice of a Government campaign. As traffic volumes rise, compulsion must have a part to play. Such measures might be unpopular. So what?

Moral issues on abortion and embryo research

From the Editor of *Ethics & Medicine*

Sir, The extraordinary decision of the House of Commons to abandon the safeguards provided by the Infant Life (Preservation) Act and permit (some) abortion all the way to term (report, April 25) is profoundly disturbing, must surely have been largely unintended, and cannot be allowed to stand.

It represents a major liberalisation of our abortion law in a direction which has never even been debated in Parliament, and which takes us beyond the classic abortion dilemma of the ambiguity of pre-viable fetal life into the deliberate destruction of those who were already considered "capable of being born alive" as long ago as 1929 when the Act was framed. Many people who have no sympathy for the "pro-life" movement will find this deeply disturbing.

For that very reason this entirely unexpected development takes us beyond the area in which it may reasonably be claimed that we are dealing with a matter of private conscience. It is incumbent on the Government to face the public policy questions raised and, at the least, to find a way of testing parliamentary opinion on the central question: do our legislators truly intend the unborn to be destroyed well beyond viability, for any other cause than to save the life of the mother?

The answer may, of course, be "yes", and — if so — we will have moved from discussion of abortion to that of euthanasia. But unless it is "yes" there must be an opportunity, in the cold light of day, to draw back from so momentous a step in the medicine, law and ethics of our nation.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL M. DE S. CAMERON,
Editor,
Ethics & Medicine,
Rutherford House,
17 Claremont Park,
Edinburgh 6.

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhoads

Sir, Despite the asserted conviction of the Archbishop of Westminster and others (April 23) that

World Service policy

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, I cannot agree with your view (leading article, April 26) that the BBC World Service's policy of broadcasting to friends and foes alike "suffers from an amount of neo-imperialist waffle".

Government priorities tend to favour broadcasting to "enemies" and I would not deny the importance of this. We should not, however, overlook our friends — including the Americans. American perceptions of the UK and the EC, and the needs of responding collectively to dramatic changes in Europe, are a vital part of the dialogue between allies.

Furthermore, in international affairs friends and enemies change backwards and forwards over time. The BBC should be speaking to both all the time.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh 9.

Bar subscriptions

From Mr G. J. S. Hill

Sir, For over a year now, the Bar Council has been pressing, or threatening, charges of professional misconduct against a number of barristers (myself included) who have refused to pay a subscription on the grounds (among others) that the rule compelling payment constitutes an unnecessary restraint of trade. Now the Courts and Legal Services Bill proposes (clause 29) that the Bar's rules of conduct will be deemed to have statutory approval.

It will be strange if, as seems possible, the proposed legislation has the effect of validating a restrictive practice or closed shop which might otherwise have been unlawful. I understood that Government policy was quite different.

Yours faithfully,
G. J. S. HILL,
17 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Invisible man

From Mr P. M. B. Jones

Sir, Your front page today ("Wife's adultery trial shocks liberal America") reports that a woman in Wisconsin is to be tried for committing adultery, but that her "partner in crime" will not be tried due to lack of evidence. Surely her defence must therefore be "with whom?"

Yours faithfully,
P. M. B. JONES,
29 Harrington Road,
South Norwood, SE25,
May 1.

War on cancer

From Mr Norman F. Dacey

Sir, May I add a footnote to your report (April 20), "Breast test drive 'does more harm than good'".

As part of the "war on cancer" begun in the United States in 1970, the American Cancer Society enrolled 300,000 women at 29 breast cancer detection centres and gave them an average of two radiations of radiation per examination annually.

The National Cancer Institute acknowledged uneasily that each such test increased the subject's chances of contracting breast cancer by 1 per cent or more. Mammography is not a perfect science; "misses" are in the order of 10-15 per cent.

"fundamental moral criteria are absolute", there is evidence that this is not always so.

Christians and their churches in their time have objected to Galileo's observations on the heliocentric universe, to human anatomical dissection, to Newtonian physics, to the theory of evolution, to anaesthesia for childbirth, and to transplantation operations. For centuries they supported the death penalty. It took time for contraception by the "safe period" to be accepted. Until the last century it was believed that the soul entered the fetus at the time of "quickening", suggesting that it was not human until this occurred.

On all these subjects Christian moral teachings have changed. And are the fundamental moral criteria absolute for all the other religions of the world too?

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP RHODES,
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,
Oakham, Leicestershire,
April 23.

From Ms Alison Davis

Sir, Mary Warnock (article, April 20) posits the existence of some group whose policy "aims to ensure that the numbers of handicapped people do not diminish". I am aware of no such group.

Hereditary peers

From Lady Platt of Writtle, FEng

Sir, Lady Warnock proposes (article, April 20) that one of the advantages of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill might be that noble families could arrange to have a male baby to ensure inheritance. I am very much in favour of the Bill particularly to enable childless couples to have the joy of healthy babies.

May I suggest an easier alternative solution to the inheritance of titles in that I should like possible for women to inherit if there are no sons. Life peers are of

Poll tax issues

From Councillor Mrs Janet Todd

Sir, While canvassing for the local elections I have been interested to see the residuum of favourable reaction to the principle of the community charge even from many who are not going to gain from the change. If the council were charging less there would be, I believe, general acceptance of the principle of everyone paying towards local government services.

However, I am concerned by the widespread ignorance of the extent and even of the existence of rebates and transitional relief. The Labour majority on my council has decided to postpone the sending out of bills (for £489) and the full details of the rebates and relief will therefore be postponed as well.

These include the income levels up to which reductions can be obtained — in the case of Oxford £196 per week for a couple with two children under 11, £172 per week for a pensioner couple and £127 per week for a single parent with one child under 11.

Such figures will of course vary in accordance with the amount of community charge involved. They are not nugatory amounts, and they give the lie to statements that the community charge is a fixed charge and impossible for many to pay.

While I do not doubt that there will be improvements and con-

Prison riots

From Colonel K. M. Stuckey

Sir, Only one important ingredient was lacking in the *Strangeways* affair — political will. In January, 1964, I had the privilege of flying into Uganda with my regiment, the Staffords, to deal with a riot situation approaching insurrection. Thanks to the political courage of the then Foreign Secretary, and determination at general officer level, we were given *carte blanche*.

An unopposed landing at Entebbe, an admirable High Commissioner and a decisive Defence Council combined to enable us to deliver by night a bloodless coup *de main* to a mutinous battalion with arms and ammunition enough to fight a sustained battle. Within a matter of hours, at the direction of Prime Minister Obote, the emasculated battalion was disbanded, having been handed over by the then commanding officer — by name Idi Amin.

One is tempted to ask what the outcome might have been had we been constrained by the current philosophy of negotiation. Yours faithfully,
K. M. STUCKEY,
Ivy House, Church Lane,
Adderbury, Oxfordshire,
April 26.

Language of race

From Professor Emeritus Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, Your editorial criticism ("Culture and the classroom", April 24) of the "muddled prejudice" which often accompanies charges of "racism" is timely in the contemporary debates on educational and other policy. "Racist" is a word which is used excessively and harmfully in current political usage.

Unhelpful confusion over important terms in the field of "race relations" has prevailed since 1952. A clear, concise citizens' glossary defining ethnic, cultural, racial, ethnocentrism, religious pluralism, assimilation and some other words could contribute to less heated and more constructive dialogue in a literate democracy.

The Home Office might provide the required, uncoolly, uncontroversial document for sale and distribution through the available networks, including health centres, public libraries, post offices, police stations, information offices and the like.

Yours truly,
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,
23 Woodstock Road,
Oxford,
April 26.

view, since people who oppose experimentation and research on human embryos must surely support investigations using adult volunteers which aim to prevent disabling conditions from arising at all.

Having been born with spina bifida myself (a condition most doctors now regard as being synonymous with a "miserable life") this is, of course, of great personal relevance to me. Naturally I would prefer not to be disabled, but I certainly cannot thus be presumed to prefer to be dead.

The current fatal discrimination being practised against the unborn handicapped has a direct effect on the status of older people with disabilities. To deny this is, perhaps, analogous to suggesting that apartheid has no relevance to black people unless they happen to live in South Africa.

Unlike Mary Warnock, who seems to think I should be grateful for the development of this fatal eugenic apartheid, I believe it is an affront to the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, and ultimately to us all.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON DAVIS,
35 Stileham Bank,
Mildenhall St Andrew,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.

necessity older people, and we very much appreciate the contribution to the work of the House of Lords made by younger hereditary male peers.

It would be a great advantage if we also had the benefit of younger female hereditary peers. Already we are fortunate in that a few Scottish peerages are inherited through the female line. May that soon be widely possible in the rest of Britain.

Yours sincerely,
PLATT OF WRITTE,
House of Lords,
April 23.

Common land

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, Alan Franks's article on common land (April 16) dealt, of course, only with "correctly listed" commons, but I am sure he would be the first to agree, with the Common Land Forum, set up by the Countryside Commission, who called together a number of interested parties but nobody specifically representing the small property owner, that

the omission (from the 1965 Act) of appropriate provisions for giving notice, which might be thought to be no more than a requirement of natural justice, has led to cases in which private houses and gardens... have become finally registered as common land

and that "provision must be made for such nonsense to be put right". Tony Favell's private member's Act last year put right the "non-sense" only in relation to land under or ancillary to a dwelling house that had existed since August, 1945, leaving still to be corrected all other "misregistrations", as the Forum described them. These have mainly come to light since the end of the two-year period for objecting, many relating to parcels of land of under one acre that some over-zealous parish council had wrongly thought were "waste of the manor".

The forthcoming legislation should, therefore, provide that, where a landowner can prove that, in 1965, his land was neither waste of the manor nor subject to rights of common, such land shall be de-registered.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading, Berkshire,
April 25.

Safety first

From Mr P. R. F. Rudd

Sir, The photograph (April 26) of Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, taking a trial run on a go-kart at the launch of a project to attract young people into the motor industry, is excellent.

He is quoted in the report as saying: "There has never been time when training was more important". It is a pity he was not wearing crash helmet.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL R. F. RUDD,
Paul Rudd (Solicitors),
Abbey Chambers,
49 Victoria Street,
Grimsby, South Humberside,
April 26.

Sound and fury

From the Chairman of South Tyneside Health Authority

Sir, British Rail provided "smoking" compartments to try to protect my health. Will they consider the provision of "mobile telephone" compartment to help retain my sanity?

On my recent journey, with six adjacent first-class seats the such telephones were in frequent use. It was difficult to work! think.

Yours sincerely,
W. M. DARLING, Chairman,
South Tyneside Health Authority,
Horsley Hill Road,
South Shields, Tyne and Wear,
April 27.

A matter of taste

From Mr Paul Watkins

Sir, While sharing Rick Robert's indignation (April 24) at seeing "our" breakfast described as "American", I cannot help spare a thought for those European visitors to this country who are confronted by a rack of limp soggy toast, are told that it is "Continental breakfast".

Yours truly,
PAUL WATKINS,
Pastures Farm,
Sothern,
Halesworth, Suffolk,
April 25.



John Percival on a Glasgow/London partnership which is bringing international contemporary dance to Britain

Do the cross-border two-step

When Sarah Hill and John Ashford are together, they might be seen as a double act: the loquacious one and the quiet one, but both with a rapport and enough shared knowledge to be able to answer questions meant for the other. In fact, their working circumstances and functions are different, but they have one vital ambition in common and ideas about how to develop that to mutual advantage and the benefit of others.

Hill is the dance programmer for Glasgow's Mayfest, which opens its eighth season this week. It proudly proclaims itself one of the fastest-growing British festivals and is already the second largest international festival in Britain. (Disdainfully, the location of the biggest one, thought perhaps also to be in Scotland, is not mentioned by anyone connected with Mayfest.)

Its wide range of activities, lasting most of the month, takes in local activities and community events as well as an international programme. The dance programme is necessarily a self-contained series amid all the other activity. It is essentially contemporary: the word "ballet" appears in its listings only once, with a special programme by the Scottish Ballet at Glasgow's new performing space, the Tramway, where it will give works by Italian and French choreographers and an American who works with William Forsythe in Frankfurt.

There is only one other local production, a performance by the Glasgow-based Gregory Nash Group, and one from England, Shobana Jeyasingh's *Orientalism*, in collaboration with Michael Nyman's music. The rest of the presentations come from the US (five groups), France (three), Belgium (two), the Netherlands (two) and Germany (one).

That is an impressive international sweep, but it is also expensive, not only in transport costs, but because dancers and choreographers in Europe and America are used to higher fees than their underpaid British counterparts.

This is where the connection with John Ashford is made. He is director of The Place theatre in London, where he has done wonders organizing dance seasons on a shoestring budget. His latest

venture is "The Turning World", a four-week season of small companies from around the world announced as the first of nine annual seasons.

Half of Ashford's presentations are coming only to London, and half of Hill's are booked only for Glasgow. The rest are shared, with obvious benefits both in keeping costs down and making the trip more attractive to performers and sponsors.

Ashford's still has the edge on Hill's, because of the possibility of notices in the London-based national newspapers. But other factors can play a part; Philippe Decoufle is taking his company back to Glasgow with the world

premiere of a big new production, because he had such a good time there last year. The enthusiasm of Hill and Ashford for their artists is valuable.

Luckily they have similar tastes. Both insist that they will not choose anything they do not believe in, although Hill is circumscribed by the fact that the Third Eye Centre contributes its own selection of events to Mayfest.

The need to take account of what the audiences will accept, pushing their ideas forward but not too much at a time, is also more of a restriction in Glasgow than London, which gets a wide variety of work all year. What they are looking for is

high quality work that is theatrical and will entertain, but will also show some awareness of life today and is typical of its area of origin. Ashford sums it up: "I want to see American dance from America: at present you get too much 'American' dance in Britain, France and Italy."

"I want to see something distinctively British or French or Italian from those places. Similarly, what I like about Pat Graney's company, which is coming from America, is its specific West Coastness."

They are keen to go on supporting creators they have found and shown before (even, Ashford says, if a new work is slightly dis-

GERT WEGELT



Susanne Linke and Urs Dietrich: Linke's first British performance in eight years, perhaps her last?

For addicts only

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale
Song and Dance
Shaftesbury

AS IF it were not enough to have his *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *Phantom* and *Aspects of Love* simultaneously in the West End, here is a revival of the "concert for the theatre" Andrew Lloyd Webber concocted in 1982. It is time there was a friendly warning, designed to protect unwary visitors to London, on Tube posters and in travel brochures. There is a danger of overdoing on what it would, of course, be stretching a metaphor to call Lloyd Webber's melodious junk.

Imagine the symptoms of addiction that might strike a tourist after a mere five days in town. Scrambled delusions in which felines in half-masks whizzed about on roller-skates, or sexually fickle trains swung across the stalls on chandeliers, would be the least of it. With the arrival of *Song and Dance*, the hallucinations could include the Empire State Building toppling in a subterranean gondola to the accompaniment of "Memory". To maintain on Lloyd Webber is to place the mind euphorically at risk.

The Manhattan skyline materializes in the *Song* half of the show. Marti Webb has gone there from Muswell Hill in search of love, as she did in 1982; and once again she persistently falls victim to the maggots lurking in the Big Apple. A health-freak whisks her to Hollywood, and proceeds to neglect her. Back in New York, a younger man two-times and dumps her, and then she herself ditches the married man she has allowed to comfort her.

After delivering a cycle of some 20 songs, Webb ends up as lonely but more defiant than I recall in the original production; but it is still unclear why she remains in such a doleful city. The same erotic encounters could, after all, happen in London; and without the added misery of homesickness. But perhaps the show would not have transferred to New York back in 1982, or be so likely to catch the American tourist-trade now, if Lloyd Webber and his collaborator, Don Black, had shown better geographical logic.

Both men undoubtedly have their catchy, fetching moments. The problem may be that there



Marti Webb: lonely but now finally more defiant

already is a bard of failed relationships with Manhattan settings. His name is Stephen Sondheim. He writes sharper, meaner lyrics than Black and harsher, more sardonic music than Lloyd Webber. He would probably also expect a less obviously likeable heroine than Webb, with her pleasant voice, wry warmth and rather moderate passions. When she splinters the ears, as occasionally she does, it is more because of the miking than the emotional pain.

Even the *Dance* half - variations on themes both of Paganini and boy-meets-girl - sometimes seems a bit winsome. When those fellows in braces bounce about with those bobby-soxers, the stage can look like a kindergarten for the hyperactive. But Wayne Sleep is at the centre, as in 1982, and his skill and verve are little dimmed. Just when one begins to find the balletic comedy too cute, he will fizz and whirl into top gear, carrying a talented ensemble with him - and perhaps even justifying the show.

Survivors and reunions

Barbara Lebow wrote *A Shayna Maidel* in 1984 for the Academy Theatre in her home city of Atlanta, Georgia. She has watched with some amazement as the play has gone on to be produced around the world. Its primary exposure was off-Broadway, where it ran for 16 months; but the play has also been seen in Canada and Israel. The London opening this week marks its European debut and enables Lebow to test the appeal of the work beyond its immediate New York Jewish milieu.

"It is particularly set in America, but I don't think the values or dynamics in it are peculiar to that culture," the engaging 53-year-old dramatist says of her story of two Polish sisters, separated prior to the Depression, who reunite in New York in 1946. Luisa, the older one, is a Holocaust survivor, who lost her husband, child, and mother in concentration camps and arrives in New York to find her father and, most crucially, her sister Rose, whom she has not seen for almost two decades.

While the play might sound familiar in synopsis, audiences must not expect *Ghetto II*. The aftermath of war is the issue, not the atrocities. "It's not about the war in Europe, even though that is what is assumed," Lebow says. "It's about the response to that: I'm writing it from the point of view of an American (the sheltered Rose) who was very protected from the Second World War."

Nor, despite a title which means "a pretty girl" in Yiddish, should *A Shayna Maidel* be viewed solely as an ethnic play. "The title has been a handicap in advance. Even many people who speak Yiddish thought it was some lighthearted Yiddish farce, or a Second Avenue musical. This is not a schmaltzy chicken-soup family drama." Lebow was open to alternate names for the play but was dismayed at the suggestions made.

Matt Wolf meets
American writer
Barbara Lebow,
whose 1984 play,
***A Shayna Maidel*,**
opens in London
tomorrow night

ADRIAN BROOKS



Lebow: her writing comes from her own experience

While the playwright feels that "emotionally, everything I write comes from my own experience", *A Shayna Maidel* avoids veiled autobiography. Lebow was born to a father in the garment business and an interior-designer mother and had a "comfortable middle-class" New York upbringing. The Holocaust, she says, was not part of her life directly, and to that end she empathizes with the shock of awareness registered by Rose, whom she finds the play's most truly pitiable character.

"I was drawn to the 'it could

have been me had my grandparents not emigrated' aspect of the play," she recalls. She was interested, too, in all the attendant questions: "Have I got away with something by avoiding all this, or has my life just been too easy? Am I lucky or not, being an American?"

A Shayna Maidel concerns survivors, a theme common to Lebow's work, which numbers "some 20-something" plays, including five for children. *Cyparis*, set in Martinique in 1902, is about the only man to survive the eruption of Mount Pelée, in which 30,000 people were killed in four minutes. Other plays show an affinity for time travel: *Little Joe Monaghan*, set in Idaho during the days of the Old West, and *The Keepers*, about British settlers occupying a Maine light-house in the 1840s.

A divorcee with three grown-up sons, Lebow has lived 28 years in Atlanta, devoting much of her recent time to the Academy Theatre's human-services programme, that brings improvisational theatre techniques to disenfranchised communities such as the elderly, prisoners, and the homeless. With the success of *A Shayna Maidel* she can live fully off her playwrighting, but she refuses to "go Hollywood" and will have nothing to do with the American telefilm of the play now being prepared.

"In the theatre, the playwright really is in control. I am a valuable resource, as opposed to the screen, where you are a workman who does not know anything except how to put words on paper. They tell you what to do, you do it, and if they don't like it, you have to change it. Maybe the film will be terrific, but it won't be this play," she says. "The play is now the play, whatever happens to it."

● *A Shayna Maidel* opens tomorrow at the King's Head, Upper Street, London N1 (01-236 1916).

CONCERT
Richard Morrison
LPO/Masur
Festival Hall

BY CHANCE, the present conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Zubin Mehta, and his successor, Kurt Masur, have each conducted the London Philharmonic in the last week. The comparison has been illuminating. The "showy" Mehta displayed something resembling spiritual depth in his performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. Masur by contrast revealed an unexpected flamboyance on Monday.

New York journalists, who have had fun creating a dour and daunting "Hercules" image for Masur, might have been surprised by this performance. The London Philharmonic's formidable horns were unleashed for many a brazen fortissimo, quieter moments were coloured by romantic phrasing, beautifully delivered by a superbly responsive orchestra.

For no good reason?

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

IN ITS own quietly subversive fashion, the *Army Lives* series (BBC 2) has been calling into question almost every aspect of contemporary military life at home and abroad. Last night it went to West Germany to look at the social welfare system within a camp. Just as you do not have to be especially feminist to realize that the modern British Army is still quite breathtakingly chauvinistic, you do not have to be a pacifist to wonder what precisely is being served and what is being destroyed by keeping large numbers of men and their families isolated within barracks in a foreign country with which we have not been at war for nearly half a century.

The British Army is no longer in Germany as an occupying force. Rather like a guest left over from some long-past house-party invitation, it is still wandering around, wondering how best to behave now that the rest of the house is no longer being run on quite the same lines, or for the same purposes, or even by the same people.

What is bad for the men is a lot worse for their wives: 240 couples a month are now seeking counselling over there. The only such counselling available is that of military or closely affiliated organizations. Thus, the demands of security, tradition and discipline maintain a terrifying closed world,

in which the army deals with its own in its own particular ways. As a result, unhappy wives are unwilling even to visit the Families Officer for fear of being seen talking to a man known to be in charge of domestic difficulties.

In Germany, all British Army wives are subject to military law, and family support comes from serving officers. If you decide to leave your soldier husband, you get 95 days of temporary housing and then an eviction order. Similarly, if you have a child with an illness which cannot be dealt with by the army GP, your family is moved back to Britain and your husband faces career problems because he cannot then travel to other bases.

But if it is peacetime, the Army has trouble dealing with its private lives, in wartime this would seem to have been much less of a problem. *Out on Tuesday* (Channel 4), which dealt last night with homosexuality in World War II, concluded that black-outs were a kind of gay paradise and underlined Peter Nichols' old theory (expressed in *Private's on Parade*) that for some soldiers the chance to tour Burma in fishnet stockings and high-heeled shoes was well worth the risk of sudden death.

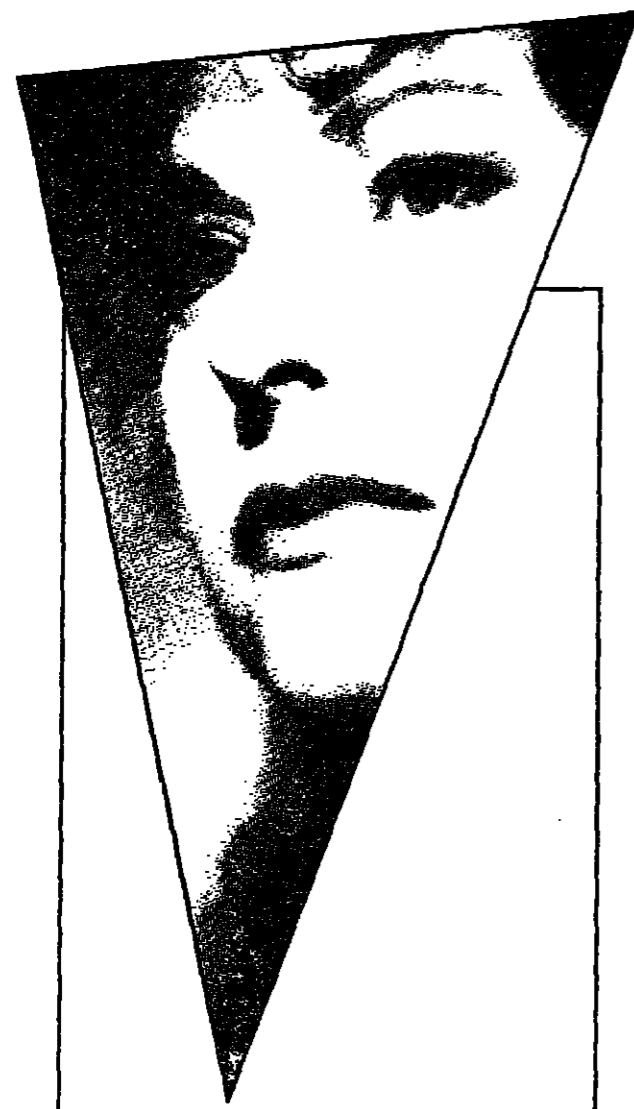
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Home-grown learning: Thomas (left) and William Rust testing soil with Jo, their mother and teacher — "they probably argue back more than they would with a schoolteacher"

Home is where the school is

If there is any drawback in home education it is probably, thinks William Rust, aged 14, the lack of opportunity for schoolboy mischief. "You can't mess about," he says. "There's no one to hide behind."

Such a disadvantage, however, has to be weighed against the attractions of following a morning's interesting work in agreeable surroundings with a pizza lunch and the latest episode of *Neighbours*: personal and social development, says the teacher in Jo Rust; half an hour's peace, says the mother in her.

Mrs Rust, aged 38, who has been educating her children herself for four years, can afford such relaxed views, given the opinion of many experts that two hours' personal tuition is worth six in school. According to Dr Roland Meighan, senior lecturer in education at Birmingham University and author of the book *Flexischooling* (published by Education Now), such efficiency is often the most striking aspect of the situation.

"If you talk to the children about what is different, their first answer is how much time you save once you cut out the boring assemblies, the long playtimes, the breaks that interested just when you were getting interested in something. They may have learnt as much by lunchtime at home as they would in two days in class," he says.

Dr Meighan has been studying the alternative approach to education for 12 years now. When he first became interested he could locate only about a dozen families engaged in home tuition; now he reckons there are at least 5,000,

involving maybe 15,000 children. In America, he says, the figure is thought to have topped a million.

"I think the major motivation is desperation. Most of these families are not ideologically anti-school. They go along with the system until their child gets into trouble, either through something like bullying or through performing poorly. So they have a go at doing it themselves and they are astonished to find it has a lot to commend it."

These parents are acting within their legal rights: only education is compulsory in this country, not schooling. The 1944 Education Act says parents have a statutory duty to see that their children receive education suitable to their "age, ability and aptitude and any special needs", either by sending them to school or "otherwise".

Education Otherwise, a self-help group which took its name from this clause, was founded 13 years ago to support and advise parents who wanted to exercise their choice, and to help them in their dealings with local education authorities. It now has 2,000 members.

The Rusts made their decision after moving from London to Gamlingay, a village near Cambridge, where Graham Rust, aged 39, is creative director of an advertising agency. The approach of formal education for Thomas, their youngest son, coincided with a growing conviction that William was finding his studies increasingly dull. At the same time Mrs Rust, a qualified youth leader, was working in a club for teenagers. "I was seeing all these youngsters whose only ambition was to leave school. It all

Why are more parents giving their children a DIY education?

Liz Gill reports

seemed so depressing, we thought we'd have a try at doing it ourselves."

For the Lyon family in Bradford, home teaching seemed part of a natural continuum. "We're not negative about schools, nor did we think we had particular qualities which would enable us to do it better," says David Lyon, aged 41, a sociology lecturer. "All we felt was that we'd been the main source of their educational stimulus until they were five, and we couldn't see the point of stopping there."

Sue Lyon, also 41, is a qualified maths teacher, but she regards that as immaterial. She has worked out her own system over the 10 years that she has been educating her four children, aged from six to 15, at home.

"I rarely stand there and act the teacher. We do have a special room, but it tends to be used more as a resource centre. The children are more likely to take their books from there and bring them into the kitchen. I might answer questions as I'm making a meal. Our view is that all life is educational."

The children's work is frequently project-orientated. "We also try to hitch ourselves to their interests," Mr Lyon says. "At the moment they're very keen on producing a newspaper, so you can use that to

teach anything from word processing to prose style."

Mrs Rust pursues a similarly flexible approach. "I tend to teach retrospectively, in that I look back at what we've been doing one week and, if I think we've spent a long time on one particular subject, we'll catch up on something else the next."

For both the Rusts and the Lyons the most tangible measure of their methods will come next year, when the elder children take their GCSEs. The likelihood, Dr Meighan says, is that they will do at least as well as ordinary pupils — "and sometimes such children do astonishingly better."

Other benefits are less tangible. Mrs Rust believes her sons have had a more stable education, and that they have developed more self-motivation and concentration. For both families classroom discipline tends to be indistinguishable from family discipline, although Mrs Rust adds: "They probably argue back more with me than they would a schoolteacher, and say they've got better ideas. The trouble is they're often right."

The costs of home education are hard to calculate. Mrs Rust says they are high in the sense that she would otherwise have returned to paid employment. Mrs Lyon, on the other hand, who would not, says an awful lot of material is free via libraries, museums, galleries, television and radio.

The big argument against the home method has always been that the children are socially disadvantaged by not constantly mixing with their peer groups. The

Rusts and Lyons say this is nonsense — all their children have a wide circle of friends and a variety of leisure activities. Dr Meighan argues: "Our vision of school social life is that it is rather wonderful, when in reality it is far more likely to be about avoiding the bully, keeping a low profile and conforming. Families who have one child in and one out of the system say it is the social competence of the one at school they are worried about. The other can handle anyone from a baby to a pensioner."

Most DIY educators go to some lengths to ensure their children do not miss out on group activities like sport, music, drama and special outings.

From time to time both the Rusts and the Lyons offer their children the chance to return to the system. So far there have been no takers. "I think they talk at the idea that it has to be all day, every day," Mrs Lyon says.

It may be that in future the lines will not be so clearly drawn. One small independent institution, the Dame Catherine School in Ticknall, Derbyshire, has six pupils among its 38 boys and girls who are primarily home-educated but come in part-time. Philip Toogood, the head, says: "If I have any criticism of home education, it is that the children never have to belong to a group they have not chosen, and so they may not learn that business of give and take," he says. "Self-development is important as long as you don't think that 'me' is all that matters."

Education Otherwise is at 25 Common Lane, Hemmingsford, Abbot, Cambridgeshire (0480 63130)

Breaking point and the boss

Executives are being urged to take more leave — but who wants to exchange the office for a 14-day family fight?

If you are a senior manager, you need a holiday. In fact, it ought to be compulsory: a survey by *Personnel Today* has concluded that whereas junior staff show no unwillingness to slope off as often as possible, eight out of 10 bosses are not taking their full holiday entitlement.

This, they conclude, is a bad thing, and British firms ought to consider following some companies in the United States by writing into executive contracts that they must go away for at least two weeks in the year.

In a time of plummeting sales graphs and exorbitant loan rates, it seems, the rats are getting ever more unwilling to stop racing round in their treadmills.

Caution should be exercised before blaming this entirely on the present jittery mood of commerce. There have always been those who find it almost impossible to go on holiday because it entails a tacit admission that they are dispensable. Bosses leave directions of Byzantine complexity to cover every possible development, and

teenagers. Taking this hornet's nest on holiday may well be every bit as stressful as staying home and masterminding a takeover bid for Amalgamated Consolidated.

For a start, there is the painful loss of control and direction. I bet if there was a more searching survey, it

would discover that men who go hiking or sailing or climbing with their families are more willing to take the time off than those who are locked into the airport-and-resort pattern of holidays. The former BBC Director General, Ian Trethowan, used to say that only a sailing holiday really relaxed him because when he dropped the mooring, he was forced to concentrate on the winds and tides instead

of fretting about the latest corporation row. If you think about it, it is downright cruel to take an executive who has worked all year to perfect his time management system and confine him for six hours, with neither telephone nor fax, in an airport where he is not right to any particular seat, and nothing to do but wait for a plane which qualified to drive. The poor wretch will pace up and down, deprived of his normal outlet of energetic progress-chasing. He gets to the beach, after a further

It is possible to carry an entire year's disasters inside a laptop computer

Indispensability can be a drug: one radio disc-jockey has actually been known to return to his station and sit boot-faced in the control cubicle, listening to his replacement. Technology has compounded the problem: it is now possible for one individual to carry an entire year's commercial disasters with him inside a laptop computer which can, at a pinch, be concealed from the family inside an artfully folded pair of boxer shorts.

Perhaps the most revealing line in the report, though, was that most of the bosses say that a fortnight's trip abroad with the family is more stressful than either staying at work or having a week off at home. Here they have a point. We are, inevitably, talking about a majority of men; and it is an unfortunate quirk of fate and biology that just when a man gets to the stage of controlling a department full of bickering, unpredictable, back-stabbing staff, his family life has generally matured as well, providing him with a parallel household of bickering, unpredictable, back-stabbing

humiliating loss of control and direction because the resort is so exotic, new and prestigious that the room service maid speaks in English. Immediately, he becomes aware that his family is not behaving like loyal and well-motivated staff members.

Daddy, poor devil, has been working such long hours away from home that he has forgotten what it is to give a crisp directive and have it met with indifference, derision, or a suggestion that he go and get his own ice-cream. By the time he has learned to wind down, to smile, to play beach-cricket and meet setbacks with a shrug and a happy *mañana*, his fortnight is up and it is time to go back to the office in a dangerously relaxed and vulnerable state, stripped of his protective working carapace. There must be a solution somewhere. Perhaps companies should insist that the full three weeks be taken at once, or revive the wiles weeks when the entire firm closes down. If this is impractical, they should steer executives away from the hideous stresses of foreign sun, and encourage them to go youth-hostelling. Alone.

Mary Lancaster

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Fax of life

The dawn of the New Age seems a strange time to launch a Filofax guide to pregnancy for time-warped, time-urgent

mothers-to-be. Pregafax, called "the pregnancy organizer", was designed by Lisa Bruce, a librarian and first-time mother, to help others whose personal organizers were, like hers, "already overburdened" with pieces of paper. The step-by-step guide has weekly divider pages and an "action list" of things to do that week. There is even a "labour action sheet" with a "contraction chart" for monitoring progress. Pregafax costs £8.99 in sheet form, £18.99 bound, or even £29.99 in a special deluxe binding, and is available from Harrods

Trick-tock

A new pocket-sized computer which purports to cure jet-lag is based on the principle that normal bodily functions are naturally linked to local light and time conditions, so regular international travel across time zones can confuse the metabolism and result in tiredness, indigestion, poor physical performance and lack

of concentration. The Bioclock resynchronizes the traveller's body clock by calculating the amount of exposure to light needed to "trick" the body back to equilibrium. You simply enter your time of departure, local time of arrival, length of flight (including stopovers) and direction. The device will then inform you how much extra light exposure you need when you arrive at your destination — which might mean positioning yourself by a large window if you go straight to a meeting, or making a point of taking a walk. Interested guinea-pigs

will be able to find the Bioclock at Leading Edge shops for £79.95 from this month.

Beauty lips

Why choose between lip protection and lip colour in the summer — or smear one on the other — when you can have both in one stick stick? RoC, the skin protection specialist, has introduced RoC Treatment Lipstick, a fragrance-free, hypo-allergenic formula including Vitamin E and ultra-violet filters in a glossy, moisturizing film. There are 10 shades to choose from,

Sous culottes

Don't get your petticoats in a twist under culottes — try the new divided slips now available from all Marks & Spencer branches for £6.99. A more expensive one in the Gardenia range costs £12.99 from selected larger stores, and new variations on the theme are planned for the autumn.

Victoria McKee

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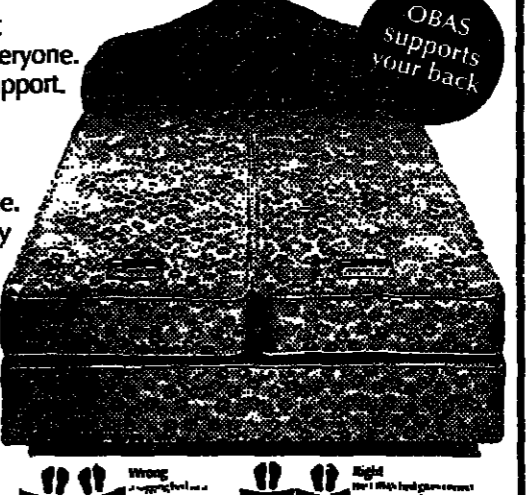
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property CorrespondentSlowdown creates
a sudden slump

The price of industrial land in England and Wales increased last year by an average of 47 per cent, the consultants Healey & Baker report in their second survey of industrial land.

The survey shows that between 1977 and 1989 the price of industrial land increased on average by 17.8 per cent per annum compound, while average rental growth on industrial property was 11.9 per cent per annum compound.

Land prices peaked in September 1989, says John Organ, of Healey & Baker, and since then industrial land prices have fallen by between 10 and 20 per cent. "This is due to the impact of high interest and a re-adjustment of the investment yields available to institutions, reflecting their perception of a slowdown in rental growth. Business-use sites have probably dropped by between 20 per cent and 30 per cent, depending on location, for similar reasons and due to the slowdown in the take-up rate of out-of-town office space."

Mr Organ said that strong demand for industrial sites remained, but the drop in business-unit site values meant that there was a better chance of acquiring sites for "shed" developments. "There still remains a shortage of new

Industrial land
values are falling
fast, according to
a recent survey

industrial and warehouse buildings, particularly in the South-east, and we anticipate continuing rental growth from this area."

The survey shows that land classified as standard industrial land in 1977 but which has since been developed for either B1 mixed use or retail use has seen substantial increases in value. Land used for food retailing has increased in value by 35 per cent per annum compound since 1977, compared with 17.8 per cent for standard industrial land, 21.9 per cent for B1 and 28.5 per cent for non-food retailing.

Where high-visibility sites can attract consent for development other than industrial, higher prices are available. Developers are prepared to pay 1.5 times more for land to be developed for B1 use, 2.8 times more for non-food retailing sites and five times higher for food superstore sites.

The West Midlands experienced the largest increase, 176

per cent, in industrial land values in the year to November 1989. Healey & Baker say this was mainly the result of sites being purchased at current prices in a market which had seen little activity since the early 1980s. The South-west saw a growth in land values of 88 per cent and the South-east of 28 per cent.

East Anglia had the highest growth in industrial land values over the past 12 years, with a compound growth rate of 20.4 per cent per annum, followed by the West Midlands (20.2 per cent) and the South-west (19.5 per cent).

Healey & Baker expect values to stabilize over the next year in line with the economic slowdown. In 1989 the vacancy rate increased for the first time since 1983, and this is likely to continue as more supply reaches the market, reducing rental growth.

The supply of industrial buildings will adjust as investment decreases due to high interest rates and slow growth, but the supply of mixed-use and B1 buildings is less responsive to economic change because of the longer "lead-in" time for development. However, Mr Organ says: "We anticipate the schemes which were started in the boom will be adequate to meet the demand in 1990."



Alban Gate, MEPC's development at London Wall, London EC2, right, was topped out last week and is due for completion in spring 1991. Above is a model set in a montage of the existing city landscape. The development, for which Mowlem Management Ltd is responsible for the

£115 million management contract, was designed by Terry Farrell & Partners in consultation with Ove Arup & Partners. It consists of 400,000 sq ft of offices, on 18 floors, grouped around two atria. James Tuckey, managing director of MEPC, said the brief to Terry Farrell was to design a



landmark building. "As the form now begins to emerge it is clear that Terry Farrell has responded to the brief with urban flair and architectural innovation." Joint letting agents Baker Harris Saunders and Jones Lang Wootton are quoting a rent of about £45 a sq ft.

Old style for modern offices

Burghley House, on the corner of Tavistock Street in Covent Garden, London WC2, is an impressive Victorian building which has been refurbished by Rowlinson Developments to provide 4,425 sq ft of air-conditioned office accommodation.

The building, with roof terrace views over the piazza, is for sale freehold or on a 25-year lease. The agents, Crossland

Otter Hunt and Michael Elliott and Partners, are quoting a rental of £245,000 a year (£55 a sq ft).

The developer, Cussins Green Properties, has been given planning consent for what will be one of Gloucester's biggest office schemes, a £17

million complex at Barrwood Fields.

The complex will provide 103,000 sq ft of offices on a five-acre site, and the first phase is due to begin in July,

taking a year to complete. Gloucester-based Bruton-Knowles and Chesterton of Bristol are the joint agents for the scheme at Barrwood

Fields, a major business park in north Gloucestershire. Whitehorse Court, on Westminster Bridge Road, Waterloo,

London SE1, an area with good communications, is the latest office scheme by Haussmann Ling Developments. The development provides 8,455 sq ft on four floors and is designed to provide maximum flexibility suitable for single or multiple occupation. The price offered is £2.75 million freehold or £27.50 a sq ft leasehold through Farrar Stead & Glyn and Anthony Lipton.

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Can drivers clean up their act in time?

Cecil Parkinson's vision of a motorists' self-help campaign against the greenhouse effect was received with mixed feelings by conservationists yesterday. The Secretary of State for Transport predicted at a conference on Monday that substantial cuts in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from vehicles could not be achieved in Britain in the next 20 years, but he suggested that drivers could achieve fuel savings of up to 10 per cent by turning their engines and 15 per cent by changing their driving habits.

"The effect of this kind of action is real, but limited," says Tessa Robertson, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which organized the conference in London. "People can do a lot by changing the way they drive, but I do not think the full benefits can be gained without tax incentives to encourage better practice."

This week's hot weather highlights the urgency of the issue: ozone levels in London rose above the World Health Organization's recommended safety levels for the first time this year.

Several groups have chosen this month to launch campaigns to raise awareness of traffic pollution. The

As ozone levels hit a high, George Hill looks at ways to cut pollution

National Society for Clean Air today starts a 24-hour "Fume Line" (0836 405-100), which the public can phone if they see vehicles emitting excessive fumes. In Nottingham, the local Friends of the Earth and Transport 2000 groups are promoting what they claim will be the first "car-free day" in a British city tomorrow. "I do not think we will see a noticeable reduction in cars coming into the town," says Lisa Kerslake, of Nottinghamshire FOE. "Our aim is to make people aware of the problem."

Mary Blake, of Friends of the Earth, says: "The first thing needed to help you drive more cleanly is to choose the car with the lowest possible fuel consumption. Do not overload it, or create unnecessary wind resistance by carrying a roof rack unless you need it. Then drive smoothly and avoid aggressive driving. There is evidence that using radial rather than cross-ply tyres can

bring a fuel saving of 6 to 8 per cent.

The motoring organizations offer broadly similar advice. Clive White, a press officer with the Automobile Association, says: "If a car is driven sensibly, it is possible to make quite considerable savings in fuel use and emissions."

The AA is uncertain about Mr Parkinson's call for better engine tuning, however, and points out that most modern cars have complex systems to control fuel efficiency, which are quite reliable so long as the owner follows the manufacturer's servicing schedules. But it points out that it can be worth checking that older vehicles are still doing as many miles to the gallon as they should.

Sir Colin Buchanan, the former adviser to the Government on traffic planning, agrees that there would be gains if drivers could be taught to drive less assertively. "I would go further than Mr Parkinson," he says. "I think we ought to have a complete overhaul of our shoddy driver-training system."

Research by the WWF suggests that if road users simply observed the existing 70 mph speed limit, fuel consumption would be cut by as much as 2.4 per cent.



Uneasy rider: a London cyclist dons an anti-pollution mask

LA DISCOVERS THE SKY AGAIN

Los Angeles today: gas-guzzlers jamming the freeways. Result: a pall hanging over the city that makes the air the dirtiest in America.

Los Angeles in the year 2000: electric cars running along underground cables, millions of lorries running on cleaner-burning fuels, petrol stations selling methanol. Result: clear blue skies.

This, at least, is the vision of clean-air campaigners laid out in a plan drawn up by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which by 2007 would improve visibility in downtown Los Angeles from the present 16 miles to more than 75 miles. By 1998 it aims to have 40 per cent of cars and 70 per cent of lorries and buses running on clean fuels. And by 2008, it wants car makers to produce only vehicles that run on electricity and other alternative fuels.

The visionary scheme has already begun to take shape. Local officials recently announced plans to build an experimental 1,000ft "powered roadway" for electric cars, which could recharge their batteries from a cable running under the road. And

the California Rapid Transit District has started to take delivery of a fleet of methanol-fuelled buses.

Car makers and oil companies have taken some well-publicized steps to clean up their image. Last September Arco, the largest oil company on the West Coast, started to market a reformulated petrol called EC-1 to replace leaded petrol used by pre-1975 cars, which lack catalytic converters. Arco claims EC-1 reduces the emission of pollutants by 20 per cent. Both Arco and Chevron have also equipped some service stations with methanol.

Unocal Corp, the Los Angeles-based energy conglomerate, recently went one better by offering to pay \$700 each for the first 7,000 pre-1971 cars driven into a local junkyard to be turned into scrap; it also offered owners who turned in their gas-guzzlers a one-month bus pass. But more traditional methods may eventually help Los Angeles control the scourge of exhaust fumes. Later this year, citizens will vote on whether to double the state's tax on petrol.

James Bone

Tradition dawns in Oxford

After only two years, the alternative May Morning looks like becoming a fixture

May Day, of all traditional festivals, has had shocking liberties taken with it. Turned into a prosaic Bank Holiday, cavalierly moved to May 7 for the convenience of business, derided by right-wing MPs as a satanic communist festival, the sweet old festival of spring has had a hard time. Even in one of its last bastions, Oxford, there are signs of rot setting in.

What should happen — and does, up to a point — is that the choir of Magdalen climb their high tower above the river and, at the stroke of 6am, sing a hymn. Then flowered undergraduates and Morris-dancers crowd the streets until breakfast time, and the Oxford street festival had become so meaningless, rickety, drunken and polluted by blaring amplified rock music that a group of disgruntled Oxonians, led by the sculptor Michael Black, set up a rival May Morning ceremony. He commandeered the tiny, arched Aristotle Bridge over the canal, a mile from the cheering crowds, and erected a 25ft-high replica of Magdalen Tower in wood and canvas. The Headington Quarry Morris Men threw in their lot with the Aristotle faction, and a crowd of 150 conducted their own dignified little ceremony. It appears to have been Year One of a new tradition.

For yesterday morning the chiming of six o'clock again rang out sweet and true from a pole of six carefully-tuned lengths of scaffolding pole suspended inside the canvas tower. The sun painted it the honey-gold of Headington stone with sudden, startling authenticity, and the tiny white face of a lone chorister appeared between the pinacles. It was, in fact, a knotted handkerchief tacked to a pole, with a face drawn on it with Biro, but the effect charmed the rebel crowd which had assembled on the little bridge to sing "Now is the month of Maying" with enthusiastic fal-lal-las.

Meanwhile, in the city centre, the police fought their own measured battle against

hooligan takeover of the morning. Black's faction had no such competition up on Aristotle Bridge. But clearly, if the excesses of the main May Morning are to be curbed, the breakaway revellers will need a secret weapon to maintain their support.

They have one. At 6.15, just as interest was beginning to wane and teenagers in flowered hats were considering defecting, a low rumbling sound and an eerie, supernatural moaning heralded the appearance of a life-sized plaster ox garlanded in May-blossom and ridden by a self-possessed six-year-old May Queen, Georgina Bell-Black.

This animal, a model for Black's projected bizarre bronze ox statue for the city, was hauled by four strong men and attached to a giant bellows, which produced the mournful moo via a car manifold and a battered organ-pipe. The teenagers decided to stay. Followed by a growing crowd, the great bull was heaved through the dancers and on to the bridge beneath the slightly swaying canvas tower. It sloshed, slightly, and when expert hands manipulated a tap in its plaster pizzle, it was revealed as holding 18 gallons of best bitter.

"What is this?" asked a lone French tourist. "I am staying in this hotel. I go to May morning, a man tell me there is a better May morning up here, so I come." She took a photograph. "The ox," a donnish woman said judiciously. "I don't think that has any particular May Day significance, has it?"

"Laden with it," madam! Laden with it!" boomed the sculptor, appearing beneath its pendulous undercarriage.

There is no point making special arrangements to attend this alternative traditionalist May Morning next year. Black refuses to be committed. It may even change bridges, and reappear somewhere else entirely. Traditions don't always decay or fossilize. Sometimes they are born, too.

Libby Purves

THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE POWER

Lotus, the maker of high-performance cars, seems the least likely company to design a car using the same technology which fuels a milk float. Yet it is testing a £42,500 Esprit sports car which could run at 160mph on both petrol and battery power.

The keenest debate among car manufacturers is no longer about how to extract noxious gases from exhaust fumes: this can now be achieved by the catalytic converter, which will be compulsory on all new petrol-fuelled cars within two years. The problem is how to replace, or make better use of, the fuels which emit carbon dioxide, the gas blamed for contributing to global warming, particularly since the Transport Department calculates that traffic will more than double by early in the next century.

Car makers warn that petrol and diesel fuel will still be in use in the year 2000 despite a huge investment in battery technology and clean fuels such as methanol.

Doubts still prevail over the viability of methanol and whether it is better than petrol as a fuel source, although Mercedes-Benz is develop-

ing a model which can alternate between the two fuels at the turn of a switch.

The efficient use of electricity to power cars still eludes manufacturers, who cannot discover how to lengthen the life of the unwieldy and heavy batteries needed. General Motors, the world's biggest car maker, is, however, planning an all-electric car, called the Impact, capable of 130 miles to a charge yet with performance similar to that of conventional saloon cars. Power will come from 32 lead-acid batteries stacked in the centre of the car.

Two of Europe's biggest manufacturers, Peugeot and Fiat, will have battery-powered cars on sale in the next few weeks — both versions of existing petrol-driven models, and claiming up to 100 miles travelling from one overnight charge of batteries.

Given that the average car journey in Britain is about 10 miles, battery power could provide an immediate solution for the environmentally aware commuter. However, the demand for high performance will remain, so travellers will still be faced with the problem of

making high speeds over long distances — something the battery car cannot yet provide.

That leaves two main options in the short term: diesel and "hybrid" cars using a mix of two fuels.

Volkswagen-Audi says diesel is a good option, despite its reputation for smoky and smelly emissions. The latest diesel engines can achieve fuel savings of 30 per cent over petrol, and harmful emissions are much less.

However, the "hybrid" car may be the one which emerges as "the people's choice" in the next few years. Many of the major manufacturers, such as BMW, Audi, VW, and now Lotus, have developed models powered by both batteries and petrol.

A computer sensor under the bonnet decides which fuel is best. On long, high-speed runs in open country, a petrol engine, equipped with a catalytic converter, powers the car, but in towns a battery-driven engine takes over. The petrol engine recharges the batteries, which can also use the mains.

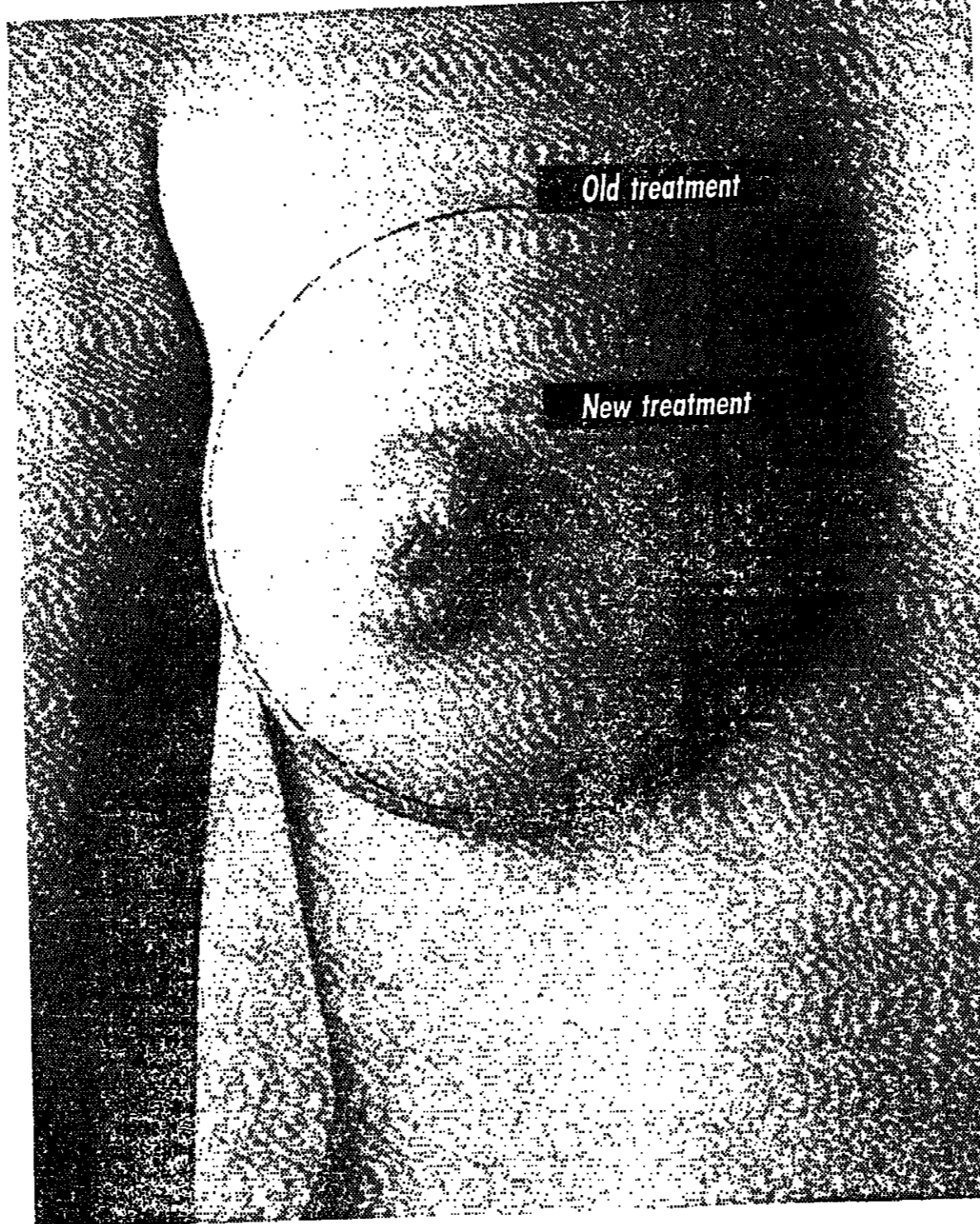
Kevin Eason

The most common form of cancer in women

One woman in every twelve is likely to suffer from breast cancer. Until now the treatment has involved major surgery which, unavoidably, leaves scars. Physical and mental. That's why a new technique pioneered by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's breast cancer unit at Guy's Hospital is of such crucial importance. Some women will still need a mastectomy. But

for an ever-growing number of patients, localised surgery can be used to remove the lump instead of the whole breast.

Heartening news for every woman. And for that matter their nearest and dearest. Just as encouraging is the fact that more and more cancer centres nationwide can now offer similar techniques thanks to the widespread sharing of information and ideas.



Thanks to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, not every woman with breast cancer has to live without a breast.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has been at the forefront in much work that has led to a number of equally critical advances. Without doubt lives have been saved and certain cancers that at one time seemed incurable, aren't. However, there is still much to be done.

As for the future.

It's our belief that it's now a question of when cancer is cured, not if. But all our work is funded by voluntary contributions, and could not carry on without them.

In fact, of every pound volunteered over ninety pence goes directly to research. This allows the Fund to continue to employ a body of over one thousand top scientists, doctors and technicians in some of the most up-to-date research establishments and hospitals, throughout the country.

So you see that when you give to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund you're not simply giving to charity.

You're giving hope.

For there's no organisation more likely than us to prove, once and for all, what is already the truth for many: there is life after cancer.

Please send me further information on the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and how I can help. Send to: Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

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MEDIA

A place for the independents

As the Broadcasting Bill returns to the Commons, independent producers still hope to consolidate further their position. The Bill gives independents 25 per cent access to most television production. What the producers now argue about is the terms of this trade. In particular, can they be guaranteed sizeable rights in on-going programme exploitation? Not for the first time, the model is the American one.

In the United States, financial interest rules still severely restrict the extent to which networks may take a position in after-sales. As a consequence, it is argued, there is a thriving secondary market. Without such a market, rapid deployment of additional satellite and cable services might have been thwarted. So, should not such a system be applied to us, now that we find ourselves with acres of airtime?

The lobbying by the independents is persistent and understandable. What is harder to understand is the studied silence of the broadcasting networks, not only on this particular point but over the position of the independents in general. The BBC once promised explicitly a careful analysis of comparative costs and comparative quality so that a rational and open debate could take place. Apparently the data is hard for analysts to handle. So no report, and no debate.

There are two points on which broadcast networks should seek to offer clarity. First, do independent quotas do much damage to economies of scale? ITV's economies were of course frequently vitiated by *louché* industrial practice, but the BBC's operational efficiencies were rightly proclaimed by Michael Checkland in earlier managerial days as unrivalled in the developed television world. Is that still the case?

Then, as we edge towards the 25 per cent target, what do broadcasters say about consistency of quality? Clearly the sheer expansion of broadcast hours has led everywhere to a boom in inexpensive programming, what Paul Bonner of the ITVA calls paperback TV as against hardback. But in the hardback areas of higher-cost shows, where expectations are greater, what does the record show? And, in particular, how far is any freshness that independents offer offset by waywardness?

One school of contemporary argument says that this last point no longer matters. The rules for independent access specifically exempt News and

Current Affairs in their daily manifestations. So the editorial heartland would seem secure. The preferred analogy is with the Press. A paper may parade an idiosyncratic swirl of commentators and columnists, but provided the newsflow and the leader page remain under the editor's firm control then the soul of the enterprise is judged not to be at risk.

The analogy, like most analogies with press/broadcasting, is unhelpful. Broadcast networks serve a broader purpose than newspapers. Their commitment both to entertain and to enlighten looms larger. So, when we think of broadcasting's heartland, we think, too, of Granada's range of fiction, of LWT's arts, of the BBC's natural history, its serials, its comedy (often, if not always, and massively these spring weekends) its sport. How far may these operations, and a score of others that could be substituted, lose out once a quarter of the workload is borne by others?

One should concede in passing that the outgoing system is a fairly flexible affair. Especially in the world of fiction, actors, directors, writers, come and go, back and forth across channel divides to wherever the work seems most challenging and attractive, and all ways have. To that extent the freelance world and the independent world are kissing cousins, and there is perhaps minor significance in change.

But in major companies, crucially underpinning these transient talents has been steady and skilled craft support, from cameramen and recordists, from editors and dubbing specialists, from designers, costumers and make-up. Whenever a British programme has bounded round the world to growing applause, it has been their work, alongside that of the better-known stars, that has been singled out for praise. Under the new conditions, is such work in significant jeopardy?

Craftsmen may nowadays be following producers so willingly into independence that the end result is bound to be a loose-limbed casualized industry, come what may. And it may be that consequent worries about training, about consistency, about sustained style, are simply old-hat in the multi-channel conditions of the 1990s. But any broadcasters who still assert that quality is a higher good than quotas had better leave coyness behind and spell out the implications now, before the writing on the wall becomes the wording in the Bill.

BROADCAST

Brian Wenham

Hazards of health warnings

Will red tape strangle the humorous, snappy radio commercial?

Richard Evans reports

Sir Humphrey Appleby and his fellow mandarins in Whitehall would be delighted with the Consumer Credit (Advertising) Regulations. Nationwide Anglia does not share their enthusiasm.

Britain's second largest building society, which helped pioneer humorous and effective radio commercials promoting products ranging from mortgages to savings and investment schemes, is seriously considering dropping the £2 million spent annually on radio advertising. And can you blame Nationwide?

Snappy 30-second advertisements face being reduced to boring gobbledegook thanks to the men from the ministry — in this case the Department of Trade and Industry.

The new regulations, which came into force in February, mean a typical Nationwide Anglia radio commercial must include a disclaimer, read out on air, that says:

"Mortgages (or loans) subject to status, valuation, security and sometimes to a suitable life or mortgage guarantee policy. Written quotations available from Nationwide Anglia Building Society, Chesterfield House, Bloomsbury Way, London."

"Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it."

Reading that out takes between 13 and 15 seconds. Any message aimed at consumers is likely to be rendered ineffective by a disclaimer giving the impression that everything is not as it should be. One commercial radio station has already lost £10,000 worth of building society advertising and expects to lose £100,000 in revenue over the next year.

The consumer credit disclaimer is only the latest example of a "health warning" which Whitehall or Brussels says must be included in television, radio and press advertisements — and many more are in the pipeline.

The Advertising Association has identified a host of industries and services where the EC is threatening the "freedom to advertise", including tobacco, food, pharmaceuticals, alcohol, cars and financial services.

Brian West, the director of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors, says: "People in government here or in Europe seem hell-bent on legislating a lot of advertising out of existence. It is not a question of removing what might be misleading claims, which has been the way of regulating advertising in the past. They are giving us a form of words



which must be included in an advert, come hell or high water. Overall it is a worrying situation.

"With the consumer credit regulations you are having to add words, which means you have to cut other things out or add to the length of the advert, which will cost more. The disclaimer numbs the effect of the advert and turns off listeners. We have suggested a shorter form of words to the DTI, but they have said no."

Although health warnings first appeared for tobacco products long ago, the regulation of advertisements has tended to concentrate on what should be excluded — such as misleading claims — rather than what should be included.

But over the past two years advertisements for goods, ranging from pesticides to children's toys, weight-loss products and telephone

equipment, have had to carry warnings. The Financial Services Act contains reams of instructions on what must appear in advertisements.

Many of the obligatory inserts are the result of lobbying by consumer and pressure groups. But taken together, do they help or hinder consumers?

"Each health warning has perfectly respectable parentage and perfectly legitimate objectives and fulfils real or perceived consumer protection needs. But taken altogether, they do the reverse and reduce consumer choice," said one senior official from the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which vets commercials on ITV and Channel 4.

The Incorporated Society of British Advertisers plans a campaign against the plethora of health warnings and disclaimers.

Ken Miles, the ISBA director, said:

"What we object to is a tendency for people to say 'This is how you must put it'. That is a very negative line of thought. It doesn't work for consumers and it won't help companies to get across the positive element of their products."

"We are mobilizing the views of companies on all the restrictions and the desire to ensure what they have to say about themselves and their products."

Mr Miles does not criticise groups lobbying on behalf of consumers, but says the danger emerges when there is little or no discussion on remedies to problems.

"What we are trying to put forward is the view that if an over-simple remedy is applied, that will often not work and have a long-term damaging effect, which the pressure groups do not want."

BBC BBC BBC

Assistant Home News Editor

BBC News & Current Affairs (Television)

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Salary: £19,729 - £25,012 p.a. (or £22,689 - £28,822 p.a. on contract) plus an allowance of £1,112 p.a. Based Television Centre, West London.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote ref. 8987/T and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 01-927 5759 (071 after May 6th).

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Further details and an application form are available from David Cooper on 01-587 4860 or 01-587 4875 (both answerphones) or by writing to him at the Personnel Department, Room 607, Queensborough House, 12-18 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SD. Quote ref FB110. Closing date: 11th May 1990.

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The principle objectives of the post are to support and provide organisational back-up to the Centre Manager in the development and implementation of a marketing and fund-raising strategy to secure the long-term financial security of the company. The post holder will report to the Centre Manager and liaise closely with the Fund-raising sub-committee of the Board of Directors.

The essential requirements of candidates are broadly:-
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CSV

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Tues 22nd May. Contact Fiona Keith on 01-278 6601

MEDIA

Maxwell's European campaign

The first issue of *The European* appears next week. Charles Wintour spoke to its Editor in Chief about his plans

Robert Maxwell, looking several inches wider round the waist since we last talked some three years ago, had just finished being interviewed by Emma Freud for *The Media Show*. Now it was my turn. "How much space is Peter Jenkins giving you?", he enquired, momentarily giving the distinguished columnist of *The Independent* unexpected influence over the media pages of *The Times*. But when we started talking about the prospects for *The European*, the publication he is launching on May 11, he had all the arguments virtually word-perfect. He conceived the idea 10 years - no, 22 years ago, in the first Dubcek era. "It is right that *The European* should be launched in the year when Dubcek is re-elected as president of the Czechoslovak Federated Parliament."

I said the dummy looked quite good. "Good?" he said. "It is brilliant!" He explained that the colour was even better than "Mirror colour" or anything "Rupert" would produce, because the paper had pioneered the use of Scitex equipment. Normally each colour picture in a newspaper needed three different colour separations, involving much time and money, together with some loss of definition. With Scitex it was "all done in one pass, with no loss of definition... It's a very major point. Everyone, whether they like the paper or not, will have to say that it's the best-looking on the block."

So where was the company based that had made this remarkable advance? "Israel," he replied, "and you are talking to the chairman." He beamed, and reflected, "I

bought two companies there and have made \$100 million in six months."

And how far did Europe stretch for *The European*? "To Vladivostok!" he replied expansively. We were sitting in his 10th floor living room in the London Maxwell House; there were four marble columns by the doors, two large bronze urns, three large very comfortable sofas, a chaise-longue, two square bronze glass-topped coffers, two round tables, plenty of chairs, a smallish bronze elephant and plenty of flowers, stylishly arranged. It was impossible not to feel a little expansive in such surroundings. Then he added: "From the Urals to Leningrad, from Cyprus to..." After a pause, I suggested Iceland. "Yes, Iceland, that will do. I didn't know you were a geographer."

The sale of 225,000, guaranteed to advertisers for the first six months, is regarded as modest. "Our research shows that there are 50 million English speakers in Europe," he said. "Demand will be far higher than anyone has given us credit." The initial print run will be a million plus and "indications are" that it will continue at that level for a month. Yet some critics had "concentrated on rubbishing it because it is a Maxwell publication and the bearded (or did he say 'weirded') Left love nothing better than hating me."

He is particularly irked, however, by the widely mooted suggestion that, because the *London Daily News* folded after only five months, prospects for *The European* are clouded. "The editorial was excellent," Mr Maxwell blames the printing and distribution arrangements



Maxwell's and his European mirror: "Everyone, whether they like the paper or not, will have to say that it's the best-looking on the block"

which undoubtedly made the newspaper uncompetitive on the streets. As editorial consultant on the project, I must add that the 24-hour concept, placing a heavy extra burden on the editorial staff as well as vastly increasing costs, was an additional factor. The whole production cycle became a licence to lose money. This time round, Mr Maxwell has learnt the lesson. *The European* is not the daily that was originally conceived, but a weekly; and printing will take place, initially, in Paris, West Germany and Hungary as well as at the Mirror plant outside London. Seventy members of the editorial staff will be based in London and the remaining 30 to 40 in Europe. In financial terms, it is a much more modest operation than the *LDN*.

All the same, £10 million is being spent on promotion during the launch and following year. Although Mr Maxwell figures in the promotional video, issued to advertisers, he is not this time appearing in the television

campaign, devised by Young & Rubicam. "It was never even discussed," he assured me. Financial break-even is budgeted for Year Three, but Mr Maxwell would not be surprised if it came at the end of Year One.

What about the editorial? The paper's fact sheet states: "The *European* will support all those in favour of European Unity and oppose all those who are against. The *European* will be independent and free of party politics."

Doesn't that suggest the paper will be anti-Thatcher? Mr Maxwell explained that Mrs Thatcher has rendered three great services to Britain. She has taught the trade union barons that economic laws apply to them as much as to the rest of the country. She has defeated Labour in three successive General Elections and thus compelled the party to shed all its useless ideological baggage, and become a modern, electable, social democratic party. And, until inflation returned, she had restored some pride in being

British. "However, on Europe she has got it wrong. If she won't change, then her party will disown her or Denis Thatcher will ask her to give up and retire, or she may decide that for herself. But this paper will be scrupulously careful not to mix up party politics with our stance on Europe. At the next General Election, we will leave our readers to decide for themselves."

Mr Maxwell had two thoughts: "I think if you talk to No. 10 you will find they are satisfied. *The European* will not be an automatic knee-jerk against the Tories," and "Don't forget that Ian Watson [the Editor] is not a natural Labour supporter. That is one of the reasons he was chosen."

And what would be the relationship between the Editor in Chief and the Editor? Mr Watson would be in exactly the same position as he was once to Lord Hartwell,

then Editor in Chief of the *Telegraph*. I said it was my impression that Lord Hartwell had sometimes become too immersed in detail. "The only difference is that I won't deal with a terrible amount of detail. But I am the guarantor to the Europeans that this is not just an English charade."

Mr Maxwell talked eloquently about Europe. "I am a passionate believer in Europe. I understand the Europeans. I came from central Europe. Now Gorbachov has admitted that communism has failed irretrievably and the cold war is at an end. Pluralism and democracy, free markets and capitalism, are on the march. I am excited by the opportunities in Europe. That is why I passionately believe in the need for this newspaper. We will make all national newspapers give more space to Europe. We have to give more space to Europe because what's going on there is so exciting."

And who will be reading it? "The opinion-formers, the movers and shakers." It is

never easy to judge prospects on a dummy, but I am sure that in Britain the paper will be sufficiently compelling as a weekend read to gather 150,000 buyers in a highly competitive market. It would be ironic if, having got the production and distribution sorted out this time, the editorial was the weak spot.

But I am sure Mr Maxwell will stand by this project until it succeeds. Mirror Group Newspapers, in whose stable *The European* is quartered, is making "in excess of one million a week", and the company still has its Reuter shares. (When Mr Maxwell took it over in 1984, the group was making an annual profit of £800,000 on a turnover of £300 million.) Furthermore, Mr Maxwell assured me, planning permission for the redevelopment of the valuable Holborn Circus site, in London, had been given. The *Mirror* editorial offices will be re-located in Worship Street. "There's a scoop for *The Times*," he said, beaming hugely. Robert Maxwell was enjoying himself again.

The BBC sweeps the board

A bouquet makes a change from the brickbats

BBC Radio, the underrated jewel in the corporation crown, surpassed itself this week. The four stations managed to scoop 27 of the 33 Sony Radio Awards - a remarkable achievement by any standards (Richard Evans, Media Editor, writes).

Some Conservative MPs never miss a chance to have a swipe at Auntie, whether for supposed "bias" on Radio 4's *Today* programme or for an "anti-Government" slant in a documentary.

However certain BBC governors and senior managers are that *Today* and similar challenging programmes amount to first-rate journalism, a nagging doubt begins to enter even the most resolute minds following the drip-drip-drip of political criticism.

It must, therefore, have been especially pleasing for BBC executives to have seen *Today* win the best daily news award, and share the prize for the best response to a news event for its handling of the Romanian revolution.

Jenny Abramsky, the editor of news and current affairs at BBC radio, said: "We are very proud of our success. The *Today* programme has received some brickbats, but this is a further endorsement from an independent organization of the programme's quality and integrity."

Other awards for BBC radio's current affairs coverage went to the BBC reporter James Miles for his coverage of the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square last year. Radio 4 also won the award for the best documentary feature for its report "The Indissoluble Union - Cotton, Chemicals and Corruption".

Today's evening counterpart, *The World Tonight*, won the award for the best current affairs programme; the *Face the Facts* series was a joint winner of the outstanding service to the community award; and the channel's *Health Show* won the prize for the best education programme.

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As Information Analyst & Writer you will play a crucial role in this communications process. You will build up a comprehensive, accurate, and accessible database. Just as importantly, however, you will be able to use that information to contribute to the writing of speeches for top management, and to the preparation of news articles and press releases.

To make a success of this new post in our expanding department, you will need a natural affinity for research, meticulous attention to detail and a strong commitment to the value of open and accurate business communications. Also you will need to be an accomplished wordsmith. You should be able to understand business strategy and, in reviewing a mass of related commercial and technical data, to grasp the essentials and turn them into effective copy.

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Tamworth was the capital of the Ancient Saxon Kingdom of Mercia and we have plans to develop a Saxon Centre of national significance.

The Town has modern shopping facilities, pedestrianised areas, markets and leisure facilities. In fact the list is endless of why people should visit Tamworth and we are therefore looking for a person who will be involved in the arranging of PROMOTIONS and MARKETING of these facilities.

You will need to have good organising skills, management skills, and the ability to contribute on Committees of Regional and Local Tourism Organisations. With at least five years' experience of Promotions Marketing and preferably in the field of Heritage Visitor Interest although not essential. For an informal discussion contact Mr G Beales, Chief Leisure Services Officer on extension 315.

Further information and application form are available from the Personnel Department or send a detailed cv to: Mr D Causser, Personnel Services Manager, Marston House, Municipal Offices, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs B79 7BZ. Telephone (0827) 311222.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 14th May 1990.

TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL Leisure Services Department ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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- Assess the needs across the board spectrum of the community
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- Do "HANDS ON WORK" using own artistic skills
- Work with the amateur and professional sectors, schools and youth groups
- Part fund the activities through sponsorship

The Development Officer will lead a small management team comprising of other departmental section heads. Arts Advisory Council members and other co-opted members.

The town has an Assembly Rooms, a small Arts Centre, on lease to the Arts Advisory Council, Tamworth Castle, a major visitor attraction and many community buildings.

For an application form and further information contact: Mr David Causser, Borough Council, Marston House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs B79 7BZ.

Closing date: May 18, 1990.

TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Write with full CV to: John Cole, PR Director, Minden Luby & Associates, 24 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9PY; or telephone on: 071-730 2111.

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THE TIMES

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Customs quiz steel firm men over Iraqi gun

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

CUSTOMS officers investigating the Iraqi super gun affair yesterday questioned 18 members of the two engineering companies in Birmingham and Sheffield.

Last night Customs said: "A number of people have been interviewed and some have been arrested. None has been charged." It would not comment on who had been questioned. Three of the people interviewed are understood to have been formally arrested and released to return for fresh questioning.

According to Customs sources eight of the people interviewed yesterday were from Sheffield Forgemasters and the others were from Walter Somers, in Halesowen, near Birmingham. Walter Somers said last night Customs officers visited the factory and left with three top executives identified as Mr Peter Mitchell, the managing director; Mr Ken Hadley, the commercial director; and Mr Taylor, the works manager.

Sheffield Forgemasters said: "Six executives in group companies have been asked to make statements at local police stations which they are doing."

Neither company was able to comment on whether other members of staff had also been seen by Customs officers during visits to the two works in an operation now being run by a team of investigators from Birmingham.

Last week Dr Christopher Cowley, a scientist, was charged with an export offence linked to the gun. Sheffield Forgemasters made the eight steel cylinders seized by Customs officers at Teesport near Middlesbrough last month. A week before the seizure Iraq attempted to place a fresh

order with the Birmingham company for what the company thinks may have been an aiming device. The order was refused.

Miss Maureen Lawrence, the British Consul, saw Mr Ashwell on Saturday.

In the Commons yesterday MPs from all sides joined in demands for an immediate ministerial statement about developments in the Iraq gun affair.

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said that he had been told that Mr Peter Mitchell, of Walter Somers, among others, had been arrested. Until the intervention of his wife he had not been allowed access to a solicitor.

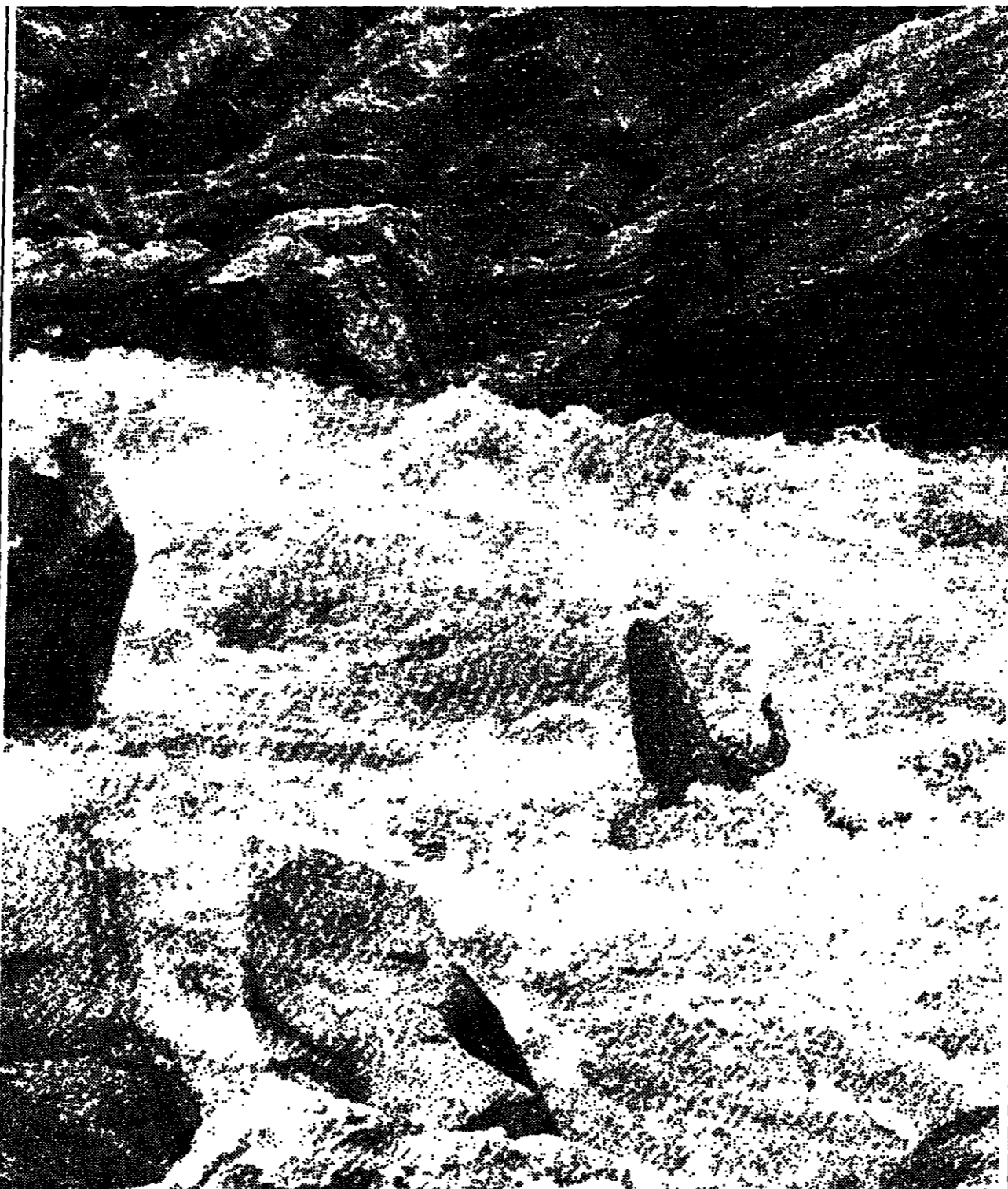
As yet there was no charge and the matter was not *sub judice* and could be discussed.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said these people should not be allowed to become scapegoats for others' inefficiency.

Britain is to make a second attempt today to persuade Greece that Paul Ashwell, the Northampton lorry driver arrested in connection with the Iraqi gun, is an innocent victim (Andrew McEwen writes).

Mr Ashwell, aged 26, is still in prison at the Greek port of Patras, where his lorry was intercepted by Greek Customs who found what appeared to be parts of the alleged gun.

Sir David Miers, the British Ambassador, will go to the Greek Ministry of Justice today to raise his case. Mrs Margaret Thatcher took it up with Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Prime Minister, at the Dublin summit on Saturday but so far the Greek authorities have not made their position clear.



THE Indus proved equal to its reputation as a cat would with a mouse. His kayak was tossed around and over and with Mick fighting for air in between capsize.

Whether through luck or experience, he survived, and will be joining the team in the descent through the spectacular torrent, swelled by melting snow, as the Indus thunders down gorges through the "Roof of the World" where the Himalayan, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges meet.

Most deaths on big river expeditions have occurred in the early days before the necessary build-up of confidence and honing of skills. A natural fear of the power of a big river has to be overcome by each person to allow them to master the river," said Mr Taylor.

Political sketch

Picking flowers that bloom in the Spring

IT WAS the first of May, the sun was shining and the ladies looked like herbaceous borders. MPs were the waiting blossoms, TV cameras the wandering honey-bees.

Your sketchwriter has remarked before on the stunning effect of television upon MPs' dress. Though it took the plant world aeons to choose the best blooms for attracting insects, it has taken MPs only 20 weeks to learn which colours stand out brightest on TV. Never has natural selection been fast-forwarded at such alarming pace.

All around the Chamber, clinging to oak-panelled walls, the big, black, electronic bees whirled and swirled their lenses. Upon whom would they alight first?

Michael Foot shambled in. This great man has altered nothing for the cameras. He wore a blue-green jacket, baggy brown trousers, a dung-coloured shirt and yellow Hush-puppy shoes. The electronic bees swung their lenses away in distaste and scanned the Chamber. What was that on the Tory benches? A hydrangea-bush in full flower? No. It was Dame Jill Knight (Edgobaston), in a vast floral design of blue, turquoise and pink. How could the cameras — or Mr Speaker — resist?

"Dame Jill Knight," he called, as the cameras spun. The hydrangea bush questioned the Health Secretary about doctors' pay. The hydrangeas had a point, as Kenneth Clarke's replies revealed this to have risen from £12,330 in 1979 to £33,280. The bush resumed its seat, ample blossoms trembling.

After that, to the bees and me, the rest of Health Questions seemed an anti-climax. We awaited the entrance of the Prime Minister.

At this, Edwina Currie swayed so enticingly that it seemed that if the cameras would not come to Mrs Currie, Mrs Currie would come to the cameras. Maybe she has forgotten the King of Siam's remark in *The King and I*:

*To fly from blossom to blossom,
The honey bee must be free.
But blossom must not ever fly*

From bee, to bee, to bee!
Over on the Labour side, two by-election victors had burst into flower. Sylvia Heal

(Mid Staffs) was in a floral print of greens and blues, while Kate Hoey (Vauxhall) was slender spray of star-like little crimson flowers, on a black field.

The camera chose neither but — though the hydrangea bush was bobbing again — preferred a billowing bunch of big red poppies, called Emma Nicholson (C, Devon W & Torridge). The poppies wanted the PM to know that more paid the community charge, so it must be fairer.

The pollen count was high and rising. Perhaps it was Harry Greenway's scarlet face which attracted Mr Speaker away from the flowers.

Would the PM condemn Ealing council for sending full-whack poll-tax bills to 6,000 voters entitled to reductions? The thought behind question and answer was that a high bill would lose Tory votes. The official Tory line is the opposite — that a high poll-tax bill from a Labour town hall should lose, not gain, support for Labour. Such quibbles did not trouble Mr G or Mrs T...

But we have left the flowers. Most notably, he have passed over a bed of orange and crimson nasturtiums in a blue jacket. Mr Speaker noticed it, though, and so did the bees.

"Dame Peggy Fenner," he called, and the nasturtiums (representing Medway, in the Conservative interest) rose, petals upturned in a colourful plea: would the Prime Minister list the five councils with the worst record on Education, the five (*lost in hubbub*) and the five (*howl*)?

Where another woman might carry with her a tin of Elastoplast or a spare button, in case of sudden need, Mrs Thatcher carries a list of the five authorities with the worst record on anything-else-please, in case a passing MP for Medway should be caught short just before a local election. She produced it, leaving the now-traditional pause after each name, for the Tories to chorus "Labour!"

Ted Heath shook his head, aghast at the vulgarity. The nasturtiums grinned, the Speaker sighed and the bees — for whom this whole show had been contrived — whirled happily around the Chamber.

Matthew Parris

Pope sets youth 'example'

Continued from page 1

modern young man," says his niece, Signora Wanda Gabrowska. "Someone who enjoyed life to the fullest but never forgot it was a gift from God." She points out that the Pope has encouraged Frassati's beatification partly because he is a man today's youth can identify with. "He loved women, sport, drink and, above all, freedom."

But he also developed at an early age a lasting belief in the importance of spiritual values. In 1918, he joined the Society of Saint Vincent, providing help for the sick and caring for orphans and demobilized

servicemen. In 1922 he was already playing a layman's role in the Third Dominican Order, engaging in frequent theological reunions.

Frassati was totally committed to his religion. "I believe the day of my death will be the happiest day of my life," he wrote to a friend some years before a week's illness struck him down in 1925 with an acute attack of polio from which he never recovered.

His funeral in Turin, to the astonishment of his parents, was attended by hundreds who had only known him through his good works as "Girolamo", the name he had

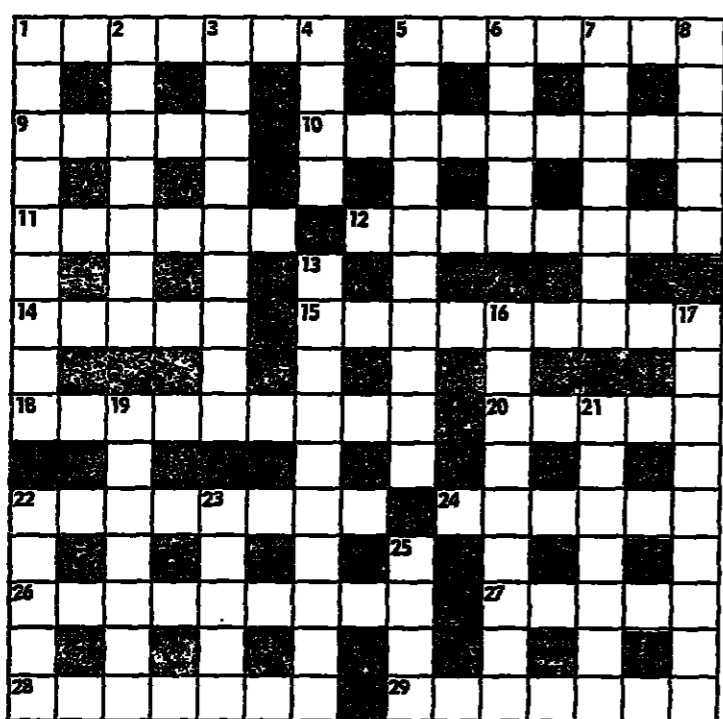
assumed on entering the Third Dominican Order. Beggers paid tribute to the handsome young man alongside the flowers of Turin society.

Following the miraculous cure of several hopeless patients who prayed to Frassati after his death, the process of beatification was begun in 1932. After this month's beatification, a miracle is required before eventual canonization. Those who knew Pier Giorgio have no doubt that such a miracle will soon come and that the Pope's favourite generation — youth — will have a real example of a young man who "lived in our era".



Pier Giorgio Frassati, in paper hat, at a party with friends before his death in 1925

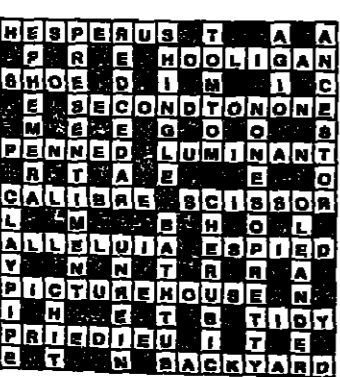
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,283



ACROSS

- 1 Enjoyment of foreign land (7).
- 5 Journalist saying "I can be cutting" (4-3).
- 9 Shrink half the cotton (5).
- 10 3 in America taking a ride (3,6).
- 11 In truth, I left some property (6).
- 12 Gets help? That's denied (8).
- 14 Bird starts to get rather exhausted by egg-laying (5).
- 15 This, my lad, can afford great relief (9).
- 18 People of high standing, such as Leonardo da Vinci (3,6).
- 20 Monster seen about, riding horseback (5).
- 22 Light gold (5-3).
- 24 Name about to turn sour (6).
- 26 Amongst others, king got caught in Italian revolution (5,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,282



DOWN

- 1 Total — two blues (9).
- 2 Descent of rope taking time (7).
- 3 Big support reported for the stars (5,4).
- 4 Test this Australian can of beer (4).
- 5 Hard — dinghy's moved here out of the water (4,3,3).
- 6 While talking, invent a new word for a wage (5).
- 7 Singers giving tribute to a queen (7).
- 8 Field right in the middle of open country (5).
- 13 Very detailed curse placed upon love-child (4-2-4).
- 16 Stuff fool into tumble-down shack (9).
- 17 It's kept by unmarried American girls under 18 (4,5).
- 19 Colourless centre to pattern that's colourful (7).
- 21 In the fresh air to do our exercises (7).
- 22 Fill in short (5).
- 23 Generates passion aboard ship (5).
- 25 Dress a Shakespearean servant up (4).

Concise crossword, page 22

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- NUZZER**
a. To give sack
b. A bribe to a superior
c. An Indian bandit
- FOIN**
a. Clover hay
b. An Irish pecuniary penalty
c. To stab
- PLACIDO**
a. 210
b. Mediterranean balcony days
c. A backing shark
- PANDOUR**
a. A generous girer
b. A large, fat oyster
c. A revolving door

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within M & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

An area of high pressure extends across the British Isles. Most parts of Britain are expected to have another dry sunny and very warm day. Any early morning fog patches will clear quickly. The North Sea coast will be at risk from fog or low cloud rolling in. Any areas affected by sea fog or low cloud will be noticeably cooler than elsewhere. Outlook: Mainly dry, sunny and very warm but eastern districts may be cloudy.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Ajaccio	19	SE	10	
Alger	19	SE	10	
Alexandria	19	SE	10	
Amman	19	SE	10	
Amsterdam	19	SE	10	
Antwerp	19	SE	10	
Barcelona	19	SE	10	
Bombay	19	SE	10	
Buenos Aires	19	SE	10	
Calcutta	19	SE	10	
Cairo	19	SE	10	
Cardiff	19	SE	10	
Cebu	19	SE	10	
Colon	19	SE	10	
Copenhagen	19	SE	10	
Dublin	19	SE	10	
Edinburgh	19	SE	10	
Geneva	19	SE	10	
Hong Kong	19	SE	10	
London	19	SE	10	
Lyons	19	SE	10	
Madrid	19	SE	10	
Manila	19	SE	10	
Mexico City	19	SE	10	
Moscow	19	SE	10	
Mumbai	19	SE	10	
Nairobi	19	SE	10	
Paris	19	SE	10	
Peking	19	SE	10	
Rangoon	19	SE	10	
Rome	19	SE	10	
Singapore	19	SE	10	
Sofia	19	SE	10	
Taipei	19	SE	10	
Tokyo	19	SE	10	
Yokohama	19	SE	10	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 23C (71F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.5 hr. Sea, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.02 m. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, 12.3 hr.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Leeds, 24C (75F); lowest day temp: Far ice, Shetland, 11C (52F). Highest rainfall: No appreciable rainfall. Sunshine: 98.8 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 23C (71F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.5 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 23C (71F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 13.5 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Scarborough	19	SE	10	
Hull	19	SE	10	
London	19	SE	10	
Manchester	19	SE	10	
Cardiff	19	SE	10	
Belfast	19	SE	10	
Edinburgh	19	SE	10	
Glasgow	19	SE	10	
Liverpool	19	SE	10	
Newcastle	19	SE	10	
Nottingham	19	SE	10	
Sheffield	19	SE	10	
Sunderland	19	SE	10	
Wolverhampton	19	SE	10	
Wrexham	19	SE	10	

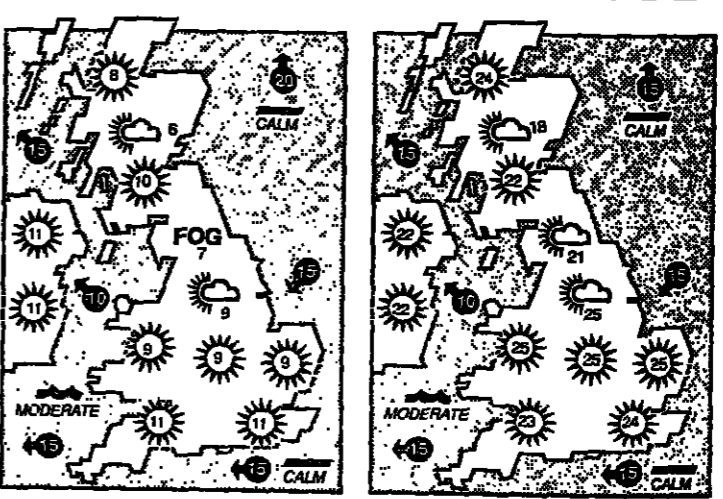
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Devon & Cornwall	702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset	703
Wiltshire, Dorset & Dorset	704
Wiltshire, Dorset & Dorset	705
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	706
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	707
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	708
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	709
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	710
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	711
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	712
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	713
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	714
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	715
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	716
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	717
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	718
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	719
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	720
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	721
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	722
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	723
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	724
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	725
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	726
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AM PM



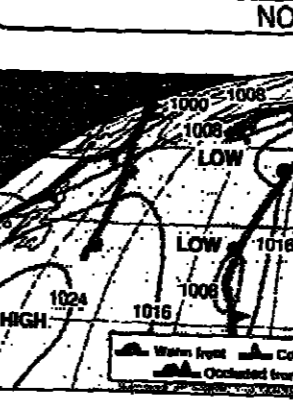
LIGHTING-UP TIME

City	Lighting-up time
London	6.25 pm to 5.29 am
Bristol	6.35 pm to 5.39 am
Edinburgh	6.53 pm to 5.55 am
Manchester	6.40 pm to 5.31 am
Penzance	6.42 pm to 5.56 am

YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	19	SE	10	
Birmingham	19	SE	10	
Blackpool	19	SE	10	
Bristol	19	SE	10	
Cardiff	19	SE	10	
Edinburgh	19	SE	10	
Glasgow	19	SE	10	
Liverpool	19	SE	10	
Newcastle	19	SE	10	
Nottingham	19	SE	10	
Sheffield	19	SE	10	
Sunderland	19	SE	10	
Wolverhampton	19	SE	10	
Wrexham	19	SE	10	

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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● SPORT 44-48

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

WEDNESDAY MAY 2 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6395 (+0.0020)
W German mark
2.7555 (+0.0061)
Exchange index
86.9 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1663.5 (+9.9)

FT-SE 100
2117.9 (+14.5)

USM (Datastream)
130.80 (+0.26)

Market report, page 28

E&E rights issue to raise £29m

ELLIS & Everard is raising £29 million in a rights issue to buy two US chemicals distribution businesses - HVC and Kramer. It is the second such rights issue within 18 months.

The terms are one for three at 152p. The shares fell by 16p to 180p on the news.

Temps, page 26

L&OF higher

London & Overseas Freighters is raising its dividend from 0.6p to 1p a share after posting pre-tax profits of £1.32 million (£1 million) for the year ended March 30.

Temps, page 26

Ashley ahead

Ashley Group, the Spanish food retailer, and Apollo blinds business, made pre-tax profits for the six months to February of £5.84 million, up from £1.86 million. Earnings per share rose from 2.32p to 4.11p and the interim dividend is 0.65p (0.5p).

Temps, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2872.75 (+15.99)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	2889.83 (+105.03)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2945.18 (-4.91)
London	FT 30 Share	1663.5 (+9.9)
Sydney	ASX 100	1147.02 (+6.57)
Frankfurt	DAX	1163.0 (-0.2)
Paris	CAC	1440.6 (+8.1)
Zurich	SMI	Closed
Brussels	Brussels	Closed
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	Closed
Stock prices		Page 26
Closing prices		Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Shares		
Shell	50p	(+10p)
British	220p	(+22p)
First Nat Finance	202p	(+12p)
Glaxo	762p	(+10p)
Hawley Sidgley	612p	(+10p)
Hawley Sidgley	612p	(+10p)
Body Shop	432p	(+10p)
GUS 'A'	905p	(+15p)
Ud Newspapers	287p	(+13p)
Pearson	661p	(+10p)
Enterprise	670p	(+15p)

FALLS

Northbrook	94p	(-20p)
Bank of Ireland	228p	(-10p)
Harvey & Thompson	450p	(-10p)
Parish	75p	(-14p)
Ellis & Everard	180p	(-15p)
Blackburn	180p	(-15p)
Conder Group	750p	(-35p)
Liberty	435p	(-15p)
J Smith	610p	(-10p)

RISINGS

SEAG Volume	19615
SEAG Volume	370.8m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15 1/2-15 3/4%
3-month interbank	14 1/2-14 3/4%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bill	7.96-7.94%
30-year bonds	9 1/4-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	1.6395
£/DM	2.7555
£/Sfr	1.4546
£/FF	6.5596
£/Yen	160.27
£/Index	86.9
£/ECU	1.3661
£/SDR	1.258074

GOLD

London	New York
AM \$388.95 pm \$389.50	
close \$388.00-389.50 (\$224.50-225.00)	
New York	Comex \$389.50-370.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun)	\$17.20bbl (\$17.25)
-------------	----------------------

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.30	2.15
Austria Sch	2.30	1.90
Canada \$	59.50	58.00
Denmark Kr	1.38	1.35
France F	11.00	10.35
Germany DM	6.85	6.45
Italy Lira	9.85	9.25
Japan Yen	2.87	2.70
Netherlands Gld	278	262
Portugal Esc	200	190
Spain Ptas	165	155
Sweden Kr	10.44	9.84
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.34
Turkey Lira	1.72	1.62
Yugoslavia Dnr	24.50	17.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 121.4 (March)

Liabilities of up to £1bn at Atlantic

By Angela Mackay

ATLANTIC Computers, the computer leasing subsidiary of British & Commonwealth, the cash-strapped financial services group, has gross liabilities of between £500 million and £1 billion, according to Price Waterhouse, its administrator.

Mr Peter Padmore, one of the two administrators, said unsecured creditors' chances of receiving a payout were "grim" and that there was "a certain inevitability" that Atlantic would be put into liquidation.

Moreover, Atlantic's dilemma could take "several years" to unravel considering most of the company's 2,500 leases will not expire for up to six years.

B&C's shares were suspended last month after the com-

pany announced it was writing off its £550 million investment in Atlantic. B&C has embarked on a £750 million asset disposal programme to save off creditors.

Analysts consider B&C may be forced to make more provisions when it reports its 1989 results next month.

Price Waterhouse said the company's US operations may provide a source of "major recoveries" for Atlantic's 200 creditors, including Royal Bank of Canada.

The US group, which owes £34 million to its British parent, has no liquidity problems, Mr John Soden, the other administrator, confirmed that all the US assets would be sold.

Mr Soden said redundancies had been made in the US including Mr Philip Gold, the chief executive.

Atlantic's leading European vehicles, Atlantic Holdings NV - the holding company - and Atlantic Nederland BV, are insolvent because of inter-company claims and a £19 million tax liability.

Mr Padmore said Mr David McCormick, Atlantic Computers' chief executive who was suspended in March, had resigned 10 days ago.

The administrators said they were waiting for statements of affairs from directors before they could accurately quantify liabilities, but the statements could be late.

Several offers have been made to buy parts of the business and there have been offers to manage the lease portfolio until it matures.

Mr Soden said the 2,500 leases had to be "stratified" because each was unique and tailor-made for users. He said the £600 million British portfolio comprised about 1,000 blue-chip end users.

None of the lease holders had exercised "flex" or "walk" clauses. These allow customers to terminate leases before maturity.

Price Waterhouse has already sold one of Atlantic's companies - Wakebourne, a computer maintenance group - for an undisclosed amount.

B&C was yesterday granted a respite by its unsecured loanstock holders, who could have forced the company into liquidation for being in technical breach of its covenants. They are not taking action while awaiting proposals from B&C.



'Grim chance': John Soden, left, and Peter Padmore



DAF gives warning of a loss

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

DAF, the Eindhoven-based truck-maker which took over the Leyland trucks operation in Britain, has given a warning that it faces a loss in the first half of this year. A big downturn in demand in Britain is blamed.

The first-half loss, compared with the same period of last year, could be between £6.6 million and £10 million, DAF said. First-half profits last year were more than £24 million.

Since predicting lower first-half results in its annual report, the trend has worsened, the company said. However, it still expects full-year results to show a profit as it brings in efficiency improvements. Deliveries will be down in the first half, but should be equal in the full year to the 1989 total of 58,660 commercial vehicles.

Falling profits in the closing months of last year were noticeable in the UK because business activities were hit by low exchange rates and high interest rates, DAF said.

The company has revised its forecast mainly because UK demand has declined further and sales of light commercial vehicles have dropped in France.

Market demand in the UK is running about 25 per cent down compared with the same time last year. An improvement is not expected before the second half of this year.

To counter the effects of the sales slowdown, DAF has brought in a "stringent" profit improvement programme. It earlier announced productivity improvements, cost savings and improved efficiency.

CBI is predicting more job losses

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

EMPLOYMENT in manufacturing industry is set to fall by an average 18,000 a month over the next three months as companies seek to protect profits and market share against the strongest rise in costs for more than five years, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Economists believe a rise in unemployment would help curb inflation, but a collapse in the labour market would embarrass the Government.

With annual inflation heading for double digits, unit labour costs surging, and the trade gap not closing as expected, the Government has relied heavily on jobs for evidence of the success of its policies.

But the latest CBI quarterly industrial trends survey identifies another worry for the Government. The squeeze appears to be causing most damage to smaller firms, many of which are products of the "enterprise culture."

Mr David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI economic situation committee, said one had to feel "sorry" for small companies. Encouraged to borrow, they were now having to pay 50-per-cent higher interest rates. Furthermore, they did not have the access to equity borrowing open to big companies.

He voiced concern about the high cost of borrowing for smaller firms and their limited scope for responding to falling home demand by shedding labour or switching to exports. "The UK needs entrepreneurial seeds for the future," he stressed.

The CBI's strong warning on employment accompanied



Two-way bet: Eugene Anderson, the Ferranti chairman, whose performance-based share options were confirmed

Write-offs at Ferranti likely to reach £200m

By Our City Staff

FERRANTI International, the defunct electronics and defence group, is expected to halve its net asset value by writing off about £200 million in 1989-90 after a rigorous review initiated by Mr Eugene Anderson, the new chairman and chief executive.

At an extraordinary general meeting to approve Mr Anderson's remuneration, he said "write-offs of a trading and extraordinary type will be very substantial" when the company announces its results in July. He noted that the result of the reassessment will be "a modest addition to shareholder funds."

Mr Anderson also made some implied criticisms of Sir Derek Alun-Jones, his predecessor, pointing out that the company's performance over the past few years had been unsatisfactory in addition to the problems caused by ISC, its subsidiary.

Mr Ian McLeod, electronics analyst at County NatWest, the broker, said Mr Anderson's comments implied write-offs of £200 million. "This will have the effect of almost halving the net asset value of the company after disposals," he said.

Ferranti shares eased 1.5p

to close at 42.5p after a low of 41.5p. Ferranti embarked on a series of asset sales after discovering a £215 million hole in its balance sheet last September caused by suspected fraudulent defence contracts at ISC. It has started legal action against Mr James Guerin, the former deputy chairman, who also founded ISC, three other executives and Peat Marwick, Ferranti's former auditor.

The main asset sold was the group's radar division to GEC for £270 million. UBS Phillips and Drew, the broker, last week increased its forecast loss of £30 million in 1989-90 to £50 million but also suggested that looking beyond the

restructuring, Ferranti shares were "a very attractive purchase." In 1991, the company was forecast to produce pre-tax profits of £30 million. The report also said Ferranti had a break-up value of 70p and that the company is trading at a 20 per cent discount to the sector.

After some debate, shareholders approved Mr Anderson's package which includes options on 9.35 million Ferranti shares at a strike price of 36.8p a share which equates to about 1.5 per cent of the company. Mr Anderson also bought 650,000 shares in March for about 41.5p each.

City Diary, page 27

Globe to lobby MPs

THE chairman of Globe Investment Trust, which is fighting £1.03 billion bid from the British Coal Pension Funds, said he will fight the "nationalization" of the investment trust.

Mr David Hardy, speaking at the annual meeting of Canover Investments, the management buy-out specialist in which Globe has a 16.2

per cent stake, said the trust is planning a shareholders' rally in Westminster to protest to MPs.

"So long as Globe remains independent," he said, "it will continue to support Canover. But like so many of its innovative investments, Canover would be under threat if Globe were nationalized by the Coal Board."

Comment, page 27

Lloyd's is facing legal threat

By Gillian Bowditch

MORE than 150 American members of Lloyd's, who are facing huge losses on two RHM Outwaite syndicates, are considering taking legal action against Lloyd's.

The US names have received legal opinion from the New York firm Reed, Abbott & Morgan, which, they say, is extremely encouraging.

A five-man committee is coordinating the US names. There are 1,600 names worldwide on Outwaite syndicates 317/661 who are facing losses of £304 million and who have paid out around £100 million. Names are expecting a cash call of about £100 million this summer.

Around 900 Outwaite names have joined the legal action being taken in Britain against RHM Outwaite and a number of members' agents.

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Membership will be granted at the discretion of Arrows Ltd.

Shortfall of up to £100m in LUI's claims reserves

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

WALBROOK Insurance, London United Investments' principal subsidiary, may be technically insolvent following confirmation that LUI needs to increase its claims reserves by up to £100 million.

Mr Peter Wilson, LUI's chief executive, said a draft report by Tillinghast, the consulting actuary, claimed the group needed another £75 million to £100 million to cover escalating claims on its US liability policies. It is unable to fund the increase from its own resources.

The extra liability is lower than market estimates which suggested a shortfall of up to £200 million. The full report

will be delivered to the Department of Trade and Industry soon.

Walbrook was suspended by the DTI from taking on new business in March, pending publication of Tillinghast's report. Its shares were suspended and six of its smaller subsidiaries stopped paying out on claims.

Its problems stemmed from its specialist US long-tail liability insurance which has been hit by a rising number of asbestosis, pollution and professional indemnity claims.

The shortfall means Walbrook will almost certainly be forced to go into a run-off state, and simply pay old

claims as they arise, while it still has sufficient reserves.

Meanwhile, a consortium of British and US insurers led by Sedgwick, the broker, is trying to agree terms of a rescue package for Walbrook and other LUI underwriting companies. This would provide funds for the companies to meet all future claims.

One member of the committee discussing refinancing said it was making efforts to keep Walbrook out of insolvency to avoid the threat of action from US companies against brokers like Sedgwick who placed risks with HS Weavers, LUI's underwriting agent. The consortium is trying

to organize an immediate cash injection and longer-term finance commitments to cover future claims. Insurers hold out little hope that Walbrook or HS Weavers will trade again as going concerns.

Senior sources in the Lloyd's insurance market have attacked Tillinghast's assessment as too low, given the age and size of the liabilities.

One insurance consultant said the reserves may need to be increased again as the flow of claims continues to rise, and that insurers will be unwilling to contribute to a rescue package while the final size of the shortfall in LUI is unknown.

The Guinness trial

Auditor denies 'colouring his notes'

A CHARTERED accountant was accused at Southwark Crown Court yesterday of allowing the explosion of the Guinness affair to colour his notes of meetings with Mr Ernest Saunders, the dismissed chief executive.

Mr Howard Hughes, Guinness auditor, was alleged to have written up a record of conversations with Mr Saunders after the event.

But Mr Hughes maintained all the notes, with one exception, were written contemporaneously. He said a record of a private meeting with Mr Saunders on November 25, 1986, was not made until January 8, 1987. And that was because the matters discussed then became significant.

Mr Hughes said he had raised four areas of concern involving the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers.

When a government inquiry was launched into the bid he said Mr Saunders assured him he knew nothing that would embarrass the company. But, weeks later, a letter from Mr Olivier Roux, the former finance director, alleging Mr Saunders was involved in improper transactions, was like a firebomb going off.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, alleged the notes were made after the letter had been examined. "That you sat down and realized at long last what had happened and you were compiling for your own use, and to show other people, a set of notes of your recollections of a number of meetings. All compiled after the event and consistent with the stance you took."

Mr Hughes said: "At no time did we create evidence."

Mr Ferguson said: "Not create, but I suggest after January 8 if you had started to look back at events in December you may well and understandably see events in a different fashion and that may have coloured your recollection. Not a conscious fabrication."

Mr Saunders, aged 54, and three others variously deny 24 counts including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues today.

COMMENT

CBI paints a picture of less stag' more 'flation

The pattern which emerges from the latest quarterly industrial trends survey of the Confederation of British Industry is one of less stag' more 'flation.

The good news is that there is no sign of slow growth in the economy turning into recession. The bad news is that price pressures are high and rising.

Factory orders are up a little and output in the next four months is expected to increase slightly, though more of industry claims to be operating below capacity. Although many firms still think their stocks are too high, the decline in output appears to have bottomed out.

Part of the reason for this tolerable situation is the buoyancy of exports which are still rising quite strongly. A balance of 14 per cent of firms said they were more optimistic about higher overseas sales than four months ago. Given present cost pressures that is good news especially after the latest trade figures.

On inflation it is difficult to know whether to feel gloomier or be mildly reassured. Prices are rising strongly with more companies reporting price in-

creases both in retrospect and prospect. This is worrying news.

But prices are still rising more slowly than costs. The implication is that company profits are being squeezed, and this in time should exercise pressure further up the pipeline curbing the level of pay increases.

Meanwhile, the effects of the squeeze are bound to be unpleasant. As the survey shows, investment is likely to fall with a balance of 8 per cent of firms expecting to spend less on plant and machinery in the next 12 months. This must be bad for industry's longer term competitiveness, though the fall is from a high level reached in the previous boom.

The other obvious area in which to economize is on staff. Manufacturing employment is likely to fall more steeply with a net 22 per cent of firms expecting to reduce employment in the next four months.

This is part of a trend which has been going on for much longer than the present downturn, but it reinforces the view that the Government is facing an electorally inconvenient reversal of the long fall in unemployment overall.

Big players in smaller game

The lack of turnover on the Stock Exchange, where trading is reported to have fallen by up to a half on the none too busy levels of a year ago, seems to be evoking a different response this time.

Instead of big new entrants such as Morgan Grenfell or Chase Manhattan pulling out of their main securities operations, there has thus far been a more general but more subtle pulling in of horns among firms that made a considered decision to keep going in the first round of retrenchment.

This has been most manifest in the unhappy experiences of James Capel, the leading research house that opted at Big Bang to stick to stockbroking in equities.

This apparently successful early policy has been put under enormous strain by the shortage of turnover and the drive to cut commissions. Capel has recently suffered progressive losses of high profile staff in the wake of the disagreements between former chairman Peter Quinnen and the parent Hongkong Bank.

Prudential, the latest to cut staff, is something of a sad case. It was one of the earliest foreign financial groups to move into the Exchange, by backing a new broking firm in 1984, and eschewed

the massive me-too ambitions and spending of others in the approach to Big Bang.

But the cautious long-term approach has still not avoided the perils of winning too little business.

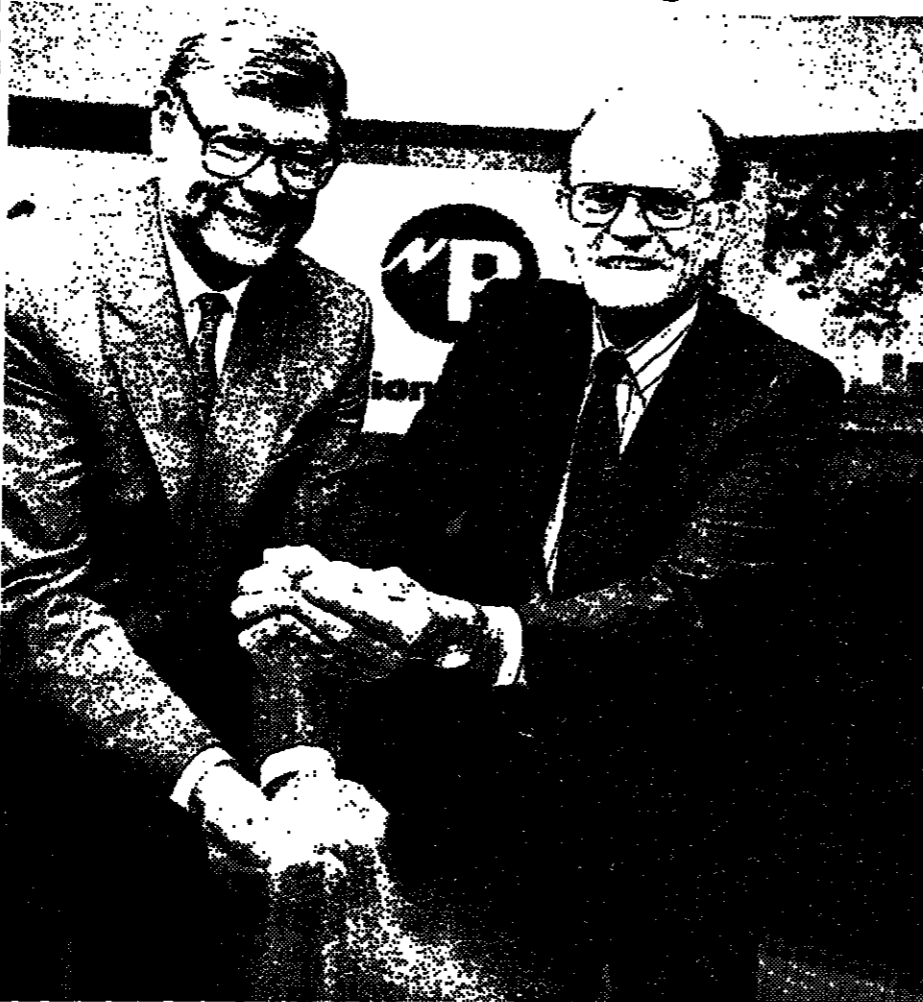
The big players, a few of which have been making respectable profits until recently, will want to sit on good shares of available business while the market sorts itself out.

It remains to be seen whether all will have the nerve and financial resources to do so indefinitely. Switches and heavier trading in gilt-edged stocks, the traditional quid pro quo for dull share markets, have notably failed to materialize: the gilt-edged market is sicker than equities.

More attention will now also be focused on the Japanese houses, especially the all-conquering Nomura, which have hitherto been able to build up long-term market share in London on the strength of huge profits in Tokyo.

Those domestic profits are likely to look sick this year, prompting a review of overheads worldwide. But saving face may play a more important role than it has for American groups pruning ailing peripheral businesses to stem losses in their own home market.

National Power signs deal



NATIONAL Power chief executive Mr John Baker, right, with Mr Alan Brooks, British Gypsum chairman, after signing a £40 million deal to sell gypsum from gases produced at Drax power station, Yorkshire, to the group

IMF quotas likely to rise by 50%

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

COUNTRY quotas in the International Monetary Fund are likely to be increased by 50 per cent at the Interim Committee meeting in Washington next Monday, plus or minus a relatively small amount.

Whether the increase is just above 50 per cent or just below will depend mainly on when the next review is held.

Britain will be pressing for a five-year gap between the time when the present increase is agreed and the deadline for the next increase. The Fund and some member countries are keen that the gap be measured from when the present quota increase was supposed to have been agreed, in 1983, rather than when it is actually agreed.

The other main issue to be decided is the positions of different countries in the Fund's ranking. Although Britain has made an offer to forego part of its quota increase to help Japan rise to number two, France is unwilling to be fifth behind Britain.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, has made it clear Britain has no objection to an agreement under which all Fund members surrender part of their quotas to enable France to advance its position, but it is not prepared to make a further unilateral offer in favour of France.

No BDA payout after £1.5m loss

By Matthew Bond

BDA Holdings, the London housebuilder and developer, is not paying a final dividend after reporting a £1.55 million pre-tax loss.

The company has been in difficulties for some months and did not pay an interim dividend. In 1988, it made £889,000 pre-tax profits and paid a 3.5p total dividend.

Last year, BDA built more than 160 homes but still has almost 100 unsold. Its exposure to London makes its problems particularly acute. Turnover in the year to January fell 29 per cent to £6.08 million, while margins dis-

appeared. The company turned in a £1.27 million operating loss, after writing down the value of its land bank and part of the interest paid on the unsold houses. Mr Brian Duker, the chairman, said write-offs totalled £228,000.

Interest charges rose 58 per cent to £290,000. However, gearing has been reduced from 135 per cent to 75 per cent.

A tax credit and a £912,000 profit on the sale of an investment property reduced the attributable loss to £96,000. Net assets per share fell 17 per cent to 67.2p a share.

W German airline files for bankruptcy

By Our City Staff

WEST German regional airline German Wings GmbH has filed for bankruptcy, part-owners Christian and Peter Kimmel announced.

They initiated proceedings on Monday evening after the withdrawal of a party interested in a partnership contract - widely understood to be British Airways.

The British airline said this week that it was studying a partnership proposal from German Wings "with some caution."

German Wings suspended flights as of midnight on Monday. The airline said it had held

intensive talks with a large European airline last week, but on 30 the investor decided not to go through with the deal. Time constraints had limited negotiations with other interested parties, the carrier added.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* newspaper reported on Saturday that British Airways had agreed in principle with German Wings to take a 49 per cent stake in the German carrier.

German Wings, also partly owned by Franz and Frider Burda, announced an operational loss of DM40 million in the first nine months of 1989.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Taking a Pru Batching

THE "substantial downsizing" at Pru Bache Securities in London yesterday, with the loss of 20 jobs, was expected to be followed last night by further job losses within its US operation. The cutback in Britain leaves just 10 people still employed in its UK equity division, with the task of running down its in-house securities book. Among the best-known analysts to find themselves out of a job, are the European motors analyst Colin Whitbread, pharmaceuticals expert Percy Lomax and stores analyst "Jolly" Jenny Nibbs. "This is expected to be just the start," said one insider. "The latest word is that there are going to be more sackings at Pru Bache in the US."

Naming his price

IT WAS not all plain sailing for Ferranti's new chairman and chief executive, Eugene Anderson, at the company's EGM yesterday. For he was called upon to approve his salary package. Even though it was eventually approved, at shareholders took umbrage at the number of options being granted to Anderson, which equal 1.5 per cent of the company at a trigger price of 36.8p a share - worth £3.4 million. This is in addition to his chauffeur-driven car and guaranteed salary of £325,000, which can rise to as much as £400,000 in line with performance. One well-spoken owner of 50,000 shares, Michael Kernot, offered to do the

job himself for half the package being paid to Anderson. But Kernot, a landowner who admitted that he had "never worked a day in his life," had his offer declined by Sir John Hoskyns, the deputy chairman. Hoskyns blithely pointed out that it was not often that a manager of Anderson's proven ability came along and this deserved to be reflected in his remuneration.

Clown call

DO NOT be misled if you see people trying to juggle tennis balls in various London hotels. It is not a class for circus acts, but a management training session. The technique is being used on courses run by Management Centre Europe, part of the American Management Association International, which claims that most participants are scared of dropping the balls. This exercise is, therefore, designed to demonstrate that they must be

willing to fail in order to succeed, that practice makes perfect, and that the relaxed attitude needed for juggling is also vital in management. And if they fail, they could always try a job on the stage.

Caravan takes off

TWO former Samuel Montagu men, Nigel Tipler, aged 33, and Mark Pearson, aged 28, who left last year to buy B K Bluebird, the largest British mobile home maker, have via backing from Dillon Read and Charterhouse Bank, bought Autohomes UK, which has 34 per cent of the British market. "We have a £20 million turnover and are thinking of the USM next year," says Tipler.

AN AUSTRALIAN executive, based in Sydney, and a fanatical yachting enthusiast, has named his new boat *Business*. This is apparently so that his secretary can, in all honesty, make the excuse, "Sorry, he's out on business."

Pinch of fluff

THE unbundling of British Rail Pension Fund's art treasures continues apace. Its collection of gold snuff boxes is coming under the Sotheby's hammer in the plush surroundings of the hotel Beau Rivage in Geneva on May 15 and is expected to fetch more than £2 million. It comprises 60 or so boxes, some depicting inlet hunting scenes and views of Poland in Meissen porcelain. The most expensive - valuation, £150,000 plus - is likely to be an enamel and gold specimen which must have caused quite a stir when it was made in 1765. For it

carries a picture on its lid of a beautiful woman emerging from her bath.

Rave for the Sky

FORMER Blue Arrow executives John Mitchell, Chris Long and legendary England World Cup captain Bobby Moore have always relished a challenge, including putting together their aborted America's Cup challenge in 1988 with Peter de Savary. And after Tony Berry's downfall as Blue Arrow's chief executive, the three of them decided to go it alone, calling their company, appropriately enough, Challenge Group. One of its biggest challenges to date kicked off yesterday at the Oxford House Youth Club in Bethnal Green, East London, with the launch of Satellite Jukebox, a project designed to raise at least £500,000 for Youth Clubs-UK. It will culminate in a 12-hour disco dance marathon on November 3, beamed to 1.5 million youngsters in clubs across Britain and Europe by Sky Television, in conjunction with MTV. Each of the 4,000 youth clubs taking part will receive a Sky satellite dish, a television and special audio equipment, supplied at cost by Thorn EMI's Radio Rentals, which will link them together. "We already have a number of big name sponsors and are close to agreeing terms with a top City institution to provide finance," says Mitchell. "The big name celebrities are also queuing up to do their bit. This is a great opportunity for Youth Clubs-UK and may run for years."

Carol Leonard

"ANOTHER RECORD YEAR"

"The first half of 1989 was marked by continuation of the buoyant conditions of the previous year and was assisted by very mild weather in Europe. A sharp reduction in demand in the United Kingdom during the second half year resulted from the Government's interest rate policy, but in other areas of the Group's operations a favourable trading environment contributed to another record year - the wide geographical spread of our activities gives us confidence for the future."

From the statement by the Chairman, Mr John Camden.



SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

	1988	1989
TURNOVER	£2570.7m	£2065.0m
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£248.0m	£205.9m
EARNINGS PER SHARE	68.5p	58.4p
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	18.0p	14.5p

RMC RMC GROUP P.L.C.

The RMC Group operates internationally in Austria, Belgium, France, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom, USA and West Germany.

Outstanding staying power.

*Extracts from ICI Chairman Sir Denys Henderson's address
to the Annual General Meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC
on May 1st 1990*

The 1989 results were a record, and we exceeded £1.5bn pre-tax profits for the first time. Pharmaceuticals and Agrochemicals both had an excellent year and Colours and Fine Chemicals, Specialty Chemicals and Polyurethanes also did well. But it was a challenging year, with two distinct phases. During the first half demand was at record levels. In the second half growth rates slowed, particularly in the housing, construction and automobile markets in the UK and in North America. Businesses primarily involved in these sectors, that is, Paints, and Industrial Products including Explosives, ended up pretty well level pegging with 1988, but with good profits nonetheless.

There were some disappointments. Films had a difficult time. The Fertilizer business managed to contain its losses but was not able to get back into profit in spite of rationalisation in Europe and the actions we have taken in the UK and Canada.

Overall, the 1989 results demonstrate the value of a carefully focussed, robust portfolio and we are now seeing the benefit of the many changes we have made in recent years.

Sharpening our competitive edge

Change will continue. We are focussing single mindedly on activities where we are, and will continue to be, world competitive — technically, commercially and territorially. In 1989 we made nearly 50 acquisitions and divestments. Among those being completed this year I would highlight the acquisition of the Atlas Powder Co. This will give the ICI Explosives business a strong presence in the United States, thus completing our comprehensive coverage of the world's major markets. We also increased capital expenditure to more than £1bn and continued to invest in new businesses, such as Seeds, Advanced Materials, Imagedata and Biological Products.

At the same time, we have maintained very satisfactory financial ratios and increased research expenditure to almost £640m. Our return on net assets puts us amongst the world's most profitable chemical companies, but we are still able to devote sufficient resource to ensure our innovative capability for the future.

All of which are convincing reasons for recommending a final dividend, which at 10% above the previous year will be the seventh consecutive annual increase.

Opportunities worldwide

We are living through a period of historic change. Events in Eastern Europe have moved with incredible rapidity and, if adequate political solutions are found, there will eventually be a massive additional market for our products.

ICI has employees and offices in virtually all the East European countries, and we are well positioned to grow our business.

We must also take action in Asia Pacific markets, where around 40% of chemicals expansion in the next decade will occur. Since 1986 we have approved investment of more than £100m in Japan and last year we approved investment of £200m for plants in Thailand and Taiwan, where growth prospects are also good.

There are thus three major trading blocs for ICI products. North America, where we are now powerfully established. Europe, where we are thoroughly entrenched and ready to take advantage of EEC and Eastern European potential. And Asia Pacific, where we are investing strongly.

ICI and the environment

I have been much concerned in recent years that we should achieve steady improvement in our health and safety at work, and in our environmental performance.

As far as safety is concerned the Group's performance has improved significantly. Accidents in 1989 were 25% down on 1988. Nevertheless there were three fatalities. Each has led to a most demanding search for means to prevent re-occurrence.

We must also seek a significant improvement in our environmental performance where there is enormous change in public expectations. I believe there is a real imperative for ICI to be "World Class" in an environmental sense as well as in its business performance. This is how we are going about it.

First, we have placed improving our environmental performance high on the management agenda, with results being regularly monitored by the Board. ICI people and their families live in the community, often close to our plants, and we all share environmental concerns.

Second, we are intent on reducing emissions from our existing plants, for example with new waste recovery plants. The level of investment and the rate of improvement in these areas will increase. We are also working with our customers to help them solve their waste problems by, for example, re-cycling CFCs and plastics.

Over £1.5 billion profit in 1989

A strong, balanced business portfolio

Change will continue

5 Queen's Awards

Leading edge of science

Innovation in environmental technology

Seeking significant improvement in environmental performance

Third, we are paying the closest attention to the environmental aspects of new plant design. Our new ammonia process has won the Pollution Abatement Technology Award, and has been chosen to represent the UK in an EEC-wide Awards Scheme. Our FM21 cells, for producing chlorine and caustic soda without using mercury, have just won a Queen's Award. Quietly, we are building a competitive edge in environmentally friendly technology.

Fourth, we shall continue to invest in research to increase our understanding of environmental issues. New facilities are being added to the Environmental Sciences Unit at Jealott's Hill and a £3m extension to the Group Environmental Laboratory at Brixham will open this year.

Fifth, we are bringing forward products which will reduce environmental concerns. We are leading in the difficult task of finding a substitute for CFCs in refrigeration and air conditioning. ICI's first plant should be completed by the end of the year. ICI resins have won the 1989 Dutch environmental award for 'Environmentally friendly products' and we are hoping for a favourable reception to the launch of our biodegradable plastic 'Biopol'. Changed public attitudes present us with new business opportunities where we can marshal technological resources to produce products which can turn our wish for a better environment, into reality.



Investing in Britain's future

Let me turn now to research, where in 1989 we increased our expenditure to about £640m. Over the last five years our research manpower has increased by 35% and we now have about 14,000 scientists and technologists. Their efforts are the principal source of innovation and the mainspring for our future growth.

It is also a very special UK asset. Our research represents 7% of manufacturing industry's R&D and science based companies like ICI are rare in this country. Two thirds of the UK's total civil R&D is carried out by only twenty companies who, in turn, are major exporters. If the UK is to continue to play a significant part in world trade, these resources have to be nurtured and applied internationally.

ICI research covers biological science and polymers and materials science from which the major growth areas of the 90s will spring and it has an academic funding programme which supports more than 50 University projects. Today's new products — drugs such as 'Diprivan' and 'Zoladex', and agrochemicals products such as 'Kerate' and 'Force' — reflect investment made 5-10 years ago, when we began to increase the proportion of the Research budget which went into the biological sciences. We have stepped up our commitment to biotechnology — a powerful enabling technology for pharmaceuticals, plant breeding and agrochemicals.

This year's Queen's Awards are good evidence of ICI's inventiveness and our ability to convert it into valuable business. Besides the Award for the FM21 chlorine production cells, Awards for technological achievement have been made to ICI Colours and Fine Chemicals for a new class of polyester dyes; and to ICI Cellmark Diagnostics, jointly with the Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine, for discovery and development of genetic finger printing.

Awards for export achievement have been won by ICI Agrochemicals, which has doubled its exports in the last five years and to Cambridge Research Biochemicals, which was acquired by ICI in 1989.

Vision and change

ICI began life in 1926. Sixty three years on we are thriving, have grown into the UK's biggest manufacturing company and the super league of the world's chemical companies. This suggests outstanding staying power.

The first quarter results bear this out with profits before tax amounting to £414m — a considerable rebound from the depressed fourth quarter of 1989, but some £28m below the first quarter of 1989. Bearing in mind the more difficult economic conditions today by comparison with the early part of last year, this performance can be regarded as encouraging. Particularly noteworthy was the strong profit growth of the Bioscience businesses. Pharmaceuticals, Agrochemicals and Seeds, which achieved trading profits of £216m compared with £151m in the first quarter of 1989.

At this stage it is difficult to predict the outcome for the whole of 1990, but barring any further sharp economic downturn I believe that the strength of our business portfolio should ensure that we have a reasonably satisfactory year — and we shall continue to pay close attention to costs, as I urged in the autumn of last year.

The period ahead may be uncertain but I would emphasise that we are better prepared than at any time in our history both to seize opportunities and to embrace change. The strategic re-direction of the 80s has allowed us to enter the new decade in excellent shape, with much improved financial ratios, better productivity, stronger Research and Technology and a much more balanced, more international portfolio. We have the people too, men and women of all nationalities, who are the ultimate, enduring and vital competitive advantage of this Group.

I am convinced that the single factor which will ensure that ICI will continue to grow profitably worldwide, is the application with determination, consistency and farsightedness of those policies which are relevant to the times in which we live. It is our ability to anticipate change and adapt to it that has allowed ICI to flourish. We have exited the 80s with record profits and clear strategies which will carry us forward into the next century as one of Britain's very few genuinely international, science based, world competitive companies.

Bid	Offer	Ching	Yao
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4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
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9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
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99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

compared with 1935 was up at 86.9 (day's range 86.9-87.0).

OTHER STERLING RATES
Argentina austral* . 7998.21-8035.87
Argentine dollar . 8.4845-8.4920

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
5-1.5940	Denmark	6.3985-6.4035	Italy
			1233 0-1234 0

1.18755	W Germany	1.6835-1.6842	Belgium (Com)	34.68-34.78
-2.7135	Switzerland	1.4558-1.4568	Hong Kong	7.7910-7.7920
-1.3413	Netherlands	1.8920-1.8930	Portugal	148.75-148.85
-1.1850	France	5.6400-5.6450	Spain	105.95-106.05
-6.1125	Japan	158.68-158.78	Austria	11.82-11.84
-6.5400	Britain			

MONEY MARKETS

4 Week fixed: 14 1/2	Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
1 mth ~ 14 11/16	Dollar:	8 1/2-8 1/16	8 1/16-8 1/8	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/2
3 mth ~ 14 13/16	Call: 8 1/4-7 3/4				
6 mth ~ 14 15/16	Deutschmark:	7 1/2-7 1/4	8 1/16-7 11/16	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/2
1 yr: 1 mth; 14 13/16 1/2	Call: 8-7				
	French Franc:	24 1/2-24 1/4	24 1/4-24 1/8	24 1/8-24 1/4	24 1/4-24 1/2

1 mth: 15 ¹² 14 ¹²	6 mth: 14 ¹² 13 ¹²	Call: 10 ¹ 9 ¹	3 ¹ 3 ¹	2 ¹ 2 ¹	9 ¹ 10 ¹ 11 ¹	10 ¹ 9 ¹
1 ¹² 6 mth: 15 ¹²		Swiss Franc:	9% 9%	9% 8%	9% 8%	9% 8%
pen 15% close 15%		Call: 9 ¹ 8 ¹				
1 ¹² 3 mth: 15 ¹² 12 ¹² 15 ¹²		Yen:	7% 7%	7 ¹ 10 ¹ 7 ¹	7 ¹ 10 ¹ 7 ¹	7 ¹ 10 ¹ 7 ¹
1 ¹² 10 ¹² 15 ¹²	12 mth: 15 ¹² 14 ¹² 15 ¹²	Call: 7% 6%				

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)
Open: \$368.75-369.25 Close: \$368.00-368.50
High: \$370.25-370.75 Low: \$368.00-368.50

82-6.78 12 mth: 9.17-9.12
3 mth: 15¹⁰-15¹⁴
12 mth: 15¹⁴-15¹⁵
GD
New Sovereigns: \$86.50-87.50 (\$82.75-83.25)
Old Sovereigns: \$88.00-89.00 (\$84.00-85.00)
Britannia: \$379.00-384.00 (\$231.00-234.00)
Kruggerand: \$358.00-371.00 (\$224.50-226.00)
Mapleleaf (1/10z): \$379.00-384.00 (\$231.00-234.00)
American Eagles: \$379.00-384.00 (\$231.00-234.00)
New Sovereigns: \$86.50-87.50 (\$82.75-83.25)
Old Sovereigns: \$88.00-89.00 (\$84.00-85.00)

PRECIOUS METALS

Platinum pm fix: \$478.00 (\$290.60)
Palladium pm fix: \$118.50 (\$72.35)
Spot Silver: \$4.96-4.98 (\$3.025-3.040)

DON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Low	Close	Vol	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Previous open interest 19480			Three month ECM				

2142.0	2146.0	5639	PRICE MAINT ECU		Previous open interest 3890
2179.0	2183.0	222	Jun 90 ...	89.21 89.21	89.21 89.21 3
			Sep 90 ...	89.18 89.16	89.16 89.11 10
Previous open interest 160264			US Treasury Bond		Previous open interest 4775
84.61	84.62	4707	Jun 90 ...	89-00 89-12	88-17 88-20 1781
84.72	84.72	10241	Long Call		

Previous open interest 33560	Jun 90	77-22	78-00	Previous open interest 39887		
91 13	91 13	2322		77-17	77-22	1887
90 83	80 83	1883				
Previous open interest 70451	Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 842		
91 37	91 37	2230		92-85	93-00	156
	Jun 90	92-99	93-08			
Previous open interest 70451	German Govt Bond			Previous open interest 88719		
91 37	91 37	2230		82-00	82-00	00
	Jun 90	82-00	82-00			

90 80	90 89	478	Sep 90	82.13	82.21	82.08	82.06	127
				81 87	81 92	81 78	81 78	

COMMODITIES

IN FOK

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff	
Official prices/volume previous day			
(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol Tons
Copper Grade A	1652 0.1652 0	1592 0.1592 0	100000

AMT Futures	Lead	1020.0-1033.0	1520.0-1530.0	590175	Irregular
Jan 702-704		491.0-492.0	491.0-491.5	36650	Steady
Mar 710-720	Zinc Spec Hi*	1767.0-1770.0	1690.0-1691.0	100400	Steadier
May 720-735	Tm*	6640.0-6450.0	6535.0-6545.0	3575	Quiet
Vol 3694	Aluminum Hi*	1503.0-1504.0	1501.0-1523.0	198425	Dirty Sick
	Nickel				

C Czarnikow 9250.0-9300.0 8800.0-8825.0 17424 Smolny
 Yot 4149
 Mar 329.4-29.2
 May 328.0-27.0
 Aug 327.0-25.0
 † (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (kg) **MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION**
 Live Beef Av'n's for week ending at representative

FUTURES		Live Cattle		Pig		Sheep		Cattle	
Vol	380	Open	Close	(/kg lw)					
8.50	Sp 113.15	Jun	127.5	127.2					
9.60	MR 123.00	Aug	121.0	120.5	GB (pl)	95.80	226.58	108.53	
12.71	Vol 240	Oct	121	121	GB (+/-)	1.43	13.95	-174	
		Nov	121	121	Enn (w/100)	13.6	20.0	-174	

1.80	unq	115.60	Eng/Wal (+)	95.85	230.27	108.7
2.10	unq	112.50	Eng/Wal (+/-)	-1.39	+7.9	-1.49
AMT Futures			Scotland (+)	-96.5	-13.9	-38.9
Oct 135.0-36.0	unq	115.0	Scotland (p)	89.90	192.02	131.3
Dec 138.0-42.0	unq	116.0	Scotland (+/-)	-7.25	-26.37	+1.02

Vol 45 * Vol Pig-78 Cattle-15 * Estimated dead carcass weight

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1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1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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90.00	90.89	478	Sep 90	82.13	82.21	82.08	82.06	127
				81.87	81.92	81.78	81.78	

COMMODITIES

IN FOK

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff	
Official prices/volume previous day			
(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol Tons
Copper Grade A	1652 0.1652 0	1592 0.1555 5	100000

AMT Futures	Lead	1020.0-1033.0	1520.0-1530.0	590175	Irregular
Jan 702-704		491.0-492.0	491.0-491.5	36650	Steady
Mar 710-720	Zinc Spec Hi*	1767.0-1770.0	1690.0-1691.0	100400	Steadier
May 720-735	Tm*	6640.0-6450.0	6535.0-6545.0	3575	Quiet
Vol 3694	Aluminum Hi*	1503.0-1504.0	1501.0-1523.0	198425	Dirty Stick
	Nickel				

C Czarnikow 9250.0-9300.0 8800.0-8825.0 17424 Smolny
 Yot 4149
 Mar 329.4-29.2
 May 328.0-27.0
 Aug 327.0-25.0
 † (Cents per Troy oz.) * (\$ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (kg) **MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION**
 Live Beef Av'n's for week ending at representative

FUTURES		Live Cattle		Pig		Sheep		Cattle	
Vol	380	Open	Close	(/kg lw)					
8.50	Sp 113.15	Jun	127.5	127.2					
9.60	MR 123.00	Aug	121.0	120.5	GB (pl)	95.80	226.58	108.53	
12.71	Vol 240	Oct	121	121	GB (+/-)	1.43	13.95	-174	
		Nov	121	121	Enn (w/100)	13.6	20.0	-174	

1.80	unq	115.60	Eng/Wal (+)	95.85	230.27	108.7
2.10	unq	112.50	Eng/Wal (+/-)	-1.39	+7.9	-1.49
AMT Futures			Scotland (+)	-96.5	-13.9	-38.9
Oct 135.0-36.0	unq	115.0	Scotland (p)	89.90	192.02	-13.3
Dec 138.0-42.0	unq	116.0	Scotland (+/-)	-7.25	-26.37	+1.02

Vol 45 Vol 46-78 Cattle-15 * Estimated dead carcass weight

Portfolio

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible]

Cap & Counties	345	350	..	18.0	4.8	14.6
Cardinal Prep	380	430	..	3.0	0.7	..
Chesterfield	760	790	..	22.0	2.8	24.5
Christie	65	72	..	5.3	7.7	5.0
Cleveland	35	45	..	4.0	18.0	3.4

Charles Michaels	150	100	+	+	120	120	0.0
Chapman	142	142	+	+	123	123	0.0
Clifford	123	123	+	+	120	123	0.0
Control Seas	30	31	+	+	1	1	0.0
Costello	110	110	+	+	120	120	0.0
Danger	700	700	+	+	292	241	5.5
Davis Estates	194	200	+	+	210	180	0.5
Dorchester Towson	95	107	+	+	95	107	0.5
Dr Morgan	170	170	+	+	157	171	0.0
Dunham	170	170	+	+	70	12	0.0
Dunham Holdings	700	750	+	+	73	44	22.0
Dunhamco Inc	27	27	+	+	27	27	0.0
Equinox Trust	130	145	+	+	133	125	5.0
Estates & Agency	300	320	+	+	320	320	0.0
Estates & Agency	140	140	+	+	5	5	0.0
Evans of Leeds	180	213	+	+	83	40	14.0
Fin. Data	38	42	+	+	21	31	17.0

Graylock	385	401	-2	2.4	2.4	17.2
Halfmoon Gp	394	404	-1	2.4	2.4	17.2
Harrison Countyland	43	45	-1	2.4	2.4	17.2
Rosenbaum	735	745	+10	26.0	3.5	23.5
Do A' (Jan)	715	725	+10	26.0	3.5	23.5
Harvey Drive	75	80	+5	6.7	8.1	5.1
Harvey Drive	450	500	+50	37.5	7.9	5.7
Hedgeford	202	212	+10	12.2	5.4	5.0
Hedgeford Bar	202	212	+10	12.2	5.4	5.0

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West & Country	170	180	+0.1	2.1	1.2	46.7
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SHOES, LEATHER						
Hudson	50	57	..	3.2	5.8	9.8
Manhattan	133	140	..	5.1	6.0	11.1
Footwear	133	140	..	5.1	6.0	11.1
Leather	133	140	..	5.1	6.0	11.1
Style & Fashion	294	316	-2	9.3	3.0	21.2

TEXTILES						
Acad	17	20	-1	15.3	4.5	19.8
Acad Text	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (A)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (B)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (C)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (D)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (E)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (F)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (G)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (H)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (I)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (J)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (K)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (L)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (M)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (N)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (O)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (P)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (Q)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (R)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (S)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (T)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (U)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (V)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (W)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (X)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (Y)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7
Acad Text (Z)	172	202	-30	19.4	5.3	24.7

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WATER							
140a	Argent Water	149	151	-2	28.4	13.6	3.6
141	Bedouin	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
142	North Water	139	140	-1	21.0	15.1	3.2
143	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
144	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
145	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
146	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
147	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
148	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
149	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
150	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
151	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
152	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
153	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
154	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
155	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
156	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
157	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
158	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
159	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
160	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
161	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
162	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
163	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
164	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
165	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
166	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
167	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
168	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
169	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
170	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
171	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
172	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
173	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
174	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
175	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
176	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
177	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
178	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
179	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
180	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
181	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
182	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
183	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
184	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
185	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
186	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
187	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
188	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
189	Swarm Coast	148	149	-1	27.8	14.7	2.9
190	Swarm Coast	149	150	-1	28.4	13.6	3.6
191	Swarm Coast	148	1				

● Ex dividend ■ Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

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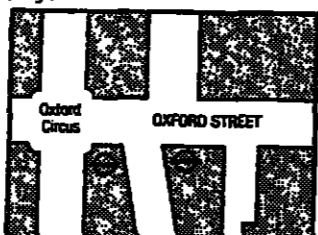
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SECRETARIAL

The London Secretary Show starts today at Olympia 2 and, as Alan Hamilton writes, dedication is the name of the game

Penny's empire

The back of Penny Pike's hand is black and blue with a series of urgent felt-tip messages written on it. She apologises for detaining me, but would I accept coffee while she transmits a long and urgent fax to Richard? I sit in her outer office, waiting. It is a houseboat on the Grand Union Canal.

I am not altogether surprised at the surroundings. Somehow, a floating personal assistant fits perfectly naturally into the unconventional and informal image of the Branson empire.

Penny, finally freed from the fax, relates that she left school with seven O levels, went to secretarial college, and began working in the multifaceted section of a solicitors' office. But at least, she says, it taught her accuracy; you did not dare make a typing mistake as Tipp-Ex did not look well on legal documents.

But the low point of her secretarial career, she believes, came when she worked at a leading advertising agency, and caught herself reading a book one day because there was nothing to do. "I thought that was despicable; the job was obviously unnecessary and therefore fairly worthless."

Between long holidays of travelling cheaply around Europe and managing a villa in Greece, she went temping. "I loathed it,

because you can never get stuck into anything, and you always get the feeling that the temps are given the worst jobs." She was saved by a friend pleading with her to go to Virgin Records superstore at Marble Arch, then just opened.

Working up from a shopfloor job that had little to do with shorthand and typing but everything to do with selling records, she eventually became Mr Branson's PA 13 years ago. "I don't know how it happened; Richard just suddenly appeared one day and asked if I would like to work for him."

'One call from Richard can wreck my plans for the evening'

It was initially terrifying. "The first thing he asked me to do was to find a band to back Julie Covington, who was singing on Thames TV that night. I hadn't the faintest idea what to do, so I asked him how you found a band. He said he didn't know. I just had to ask around until I found the answer."

Mr Branson, one suspects, knows very well how to assemble a band at a few hours' notice. "Richard is very imaginative, but also very human and down-to-

earth, which encourages you to try that much harder. Also, you know that if you fail to do something, he'll do it himself. And your pride won't let you put up with that."

Dedication to the job has contributed to divorce for Penny. "The hours can be really, really long; you just have to put them in to get the job done. Whatever I have planned for the evening, one call from Richard can wreck it."

Like many PAs in key jobs, Penny rarely travels with her ever-mobile boss. Her job is to hold the fort while the master is absent. But she says she could not now ever work for anyone else. "If I left this job it would be because I wanted children, or to set up my own business — or more likely both at the same time."

To be a successful personal assistant, Penny calculates, requires being very much in tune with the boss. Always be polite, but always make him feel very confident. "And whatever job within a job you are asked to do, always do it, and never feel it is beneath you."

One of the qualities required does not appear to be immaculate shorthand; Penny confesses that hers has declined from 110 words a minute to "a pretty rusty state". She can, on the other hand, boast what must be the ultimate proof of having arrived at the top of the secretarial tree. Penny Pike has two secretaries.



Penny Pike: rarely travels with mobile boss Richard Branson

Males at the terminal

Only 55,000 of Britain's 1.2 million secretaries are male, according to Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research (Joan Venn writes). Leading employment agencies, however, say the number is slowly rising. "I think it's partly office technology," says Pauline Kent, Reed Employment's public relations manager. "Men are more comfortable with the idea of sitting behind a computer terminal than the standard typewriter."

An agency that prefers not to be identified puts forward another reason: "As more women are reaching senior management, the role situation is changing. It is something of a novelty for them to have a male secretary." Males, however, can be intimidated by having a male secretary and may feel awkward because they cannot treat him as they would a woman.

Although the idea of the "office wife" is dying out, there are still men who expect secretaries to buy presents for their wives and collect the dry cleaning. They hesitate to ask another man. Few women would waste their secretaries' time in such a way.

Most male secretaries prefer to temp, though some are persuaded to stay. Men in permanent jobs are usually personal assistants to senior executives. Agencies say that when men take to secretarial work, they are very good.

Some male temps regard secretarial work as a source of finance



Skills: Andrew Ravenscroft for other interests, not as a career. Tim Wright, working for a male consultant at Standard Chartered Bank, says he earns twice as much in temping as he did in programming. His aim is to make enough to enable him to work as a jazz musician in the evenings. One anonymous male, who won a medal in the Royal Society of Arts examination for personal assistants, temps so that he can take off for foreign travel.

Andrew Ravenscroft is now working in the Brook Street Bureau head office after a spell with the National Grid. He has a degree in English, taught himself to type and acquired word-processing skills. "I shan't be doing this long-term," he says. "While I am working I can improve on my existing computer skills. Up to now I have used three or four word-processing packages."

Male temps easily find jobs. They are in demand in Britain and in Continental Europe. Many legal and financial offices in Paris remain open until midnight for business with the United States, and men do the evening shifts.

More secretarial, page 35

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SECRETARIAL

Job criteria
not just £s

Secretaries have a wide selection of job opportunities, writes Beryl Dixon, but which field should a newcomer choose?

Secretaries have never had it so good. It appears from the abundance of job advertisements that applicants are spoilt for choice. There are openings with all kinds of employers for every grade of secretary, from college-leavers — who in London can now command between £9,000 and £11,000 to the top PA earning well in excess of £30,000.

Second-jobbers in particular are in short supply and able to get £14,000-£16,000 with little difficulty.

The shortage of good secretaries means that the well-qualified can now afford to discriminate between employers — who are responding in the main by offering higher salaries and perks. That is fine if those are the applicant's prime considerations. Other employers — who can be worth checking out — are also offering better training and career development.

Many of them provide training in word-processing, use of personal computers and desk-top publishing as a matter of course, while others send their secretaries on courses in time-management,

communications and even assertiveness training — generally a sign that they envisage the job developing into a true PA role or a stepping-stone to management.

What kind of person really has the pick of the job market? Obviously sound technical skills are a must. Good typing and shorthand go without saying. Then comes word-processing. If a secretary is trained in two or more of the most commonly used ones, that is a distinct advantage — although if he or she is suitable in every other aspect, employers will cross-train.

Languages are an asset — but not as great a one as might be expected with 1992 just around the corner. It all depends on individual employers. Some are still rigidly mono-lingual; others are frantically looking for secretaries fluent in other languages. The latter should come to be in greater demand in the next few years. Languages are a particular advantage when applying for some jobs, particularly in property, law and international business.

For the very top jobs, technical skills must be backed by experience plus social and communica-



Word processing: training is a distinct employment advantage

tion skills. And anyone possessing all of the above should be in a buyer's market. On the other hand, some areas are perennially popular. More secretaries want to get into advertising, PR, marketing and the media than into anything else. Competition for employment in such sectors is fiercer — and salaries can be lower.

Very few secretaries actually choose a job on salary grounds alone. Location, status, working conditions, and the boss (in few other jobs can the one-to-one relationship involved be quite so crucial) all play a part. But there are some for whom other things being equal, it comes down to a choice between jobs based on salary.

In that case, where are the best paid jobs? Naturally enough, there is a premium in financial services where, according to Crone Corkill, the recruitment agency, the pool of interested, suitable candidates

is smaller and employers have to offer more. Next come property, large law firms and some branches of industry where the image is rather unglamorous. By contrast, a salary survey carried out by the Gordon Yates Group concluded that salaries were generally lower than average in the arts, media and publishing.

In advertising and marketing, salaries were average with interesting variations. These showed that the smaller companies paid their middle managers' secretaries better, while the larger ones paid their senior secretaries higher, than the average.

It should not be forgotten that benefits can increase the total salary package considerably. Free meals, season ticket loans, medical insurance and pension schemes all add up, while at current interest rates a subsidized mortgage can be worth from £2,000 to £4,000.

Boss can learn from show

Joan Venner reports
on the information
to be displayed

Research has shown that secretaries and PAs are responsible for a billion pounds worth of direct business expenditure a year, and are probably a major influence in the expenditure of much more business cash. At the London Secretary Show at Olympia 2, which starts today and runs until Friday, a host of exhibitors will be competing for their custom.

Nick Needs, managing director of Blenheim Plc, which has organized the show, urges secretaries to bring their bosses along. "Our aim," he says, "is not only to provide hands-on experience of up-to-the-minute information and technology and to help secretaries and their bosses to become winning teams, by better understanding of each other's needs, but also to provide a great day out."

So often an executive delegates the running of the office to a top secretary/PA who makes the routine purchasing decisions, is asked an opinion on a new word-processor, sees to the boss's travel arrangements, and arranges the catering for an office party. If this is done well, the PA may ultimately organize official entertaining and company conferences.

Secretaries at the London Secretary Show, now in its fourth year, will be able to examine computers and peripherals, and talk to systems manufacturers.

The secretary also will have an opportunity to discuss the



Talking shop: secretaries can speak to systems manufacturers

employer's needs with travel agents, airlines, car-hire firms, hotels, caterers, couriers, parcel services and employment agencies.

One of those who went to the show last year was Anne Marie Humphries, then a secretary, now a sales administration officer with Courage's. She intends to go again. "Every secretary should have an opportunity to attend," she says. "Last year there was a communications system which most secretaries would normally never get to see. My boss got one when I told him about it."

In 1989 secretaries were asked to fill in a questionnaire on the 10 top irritations in the office. This year, those who attend (20,000 are expected) will have a chance to hear an analysis of the results. Bosses should turn up, too, and discover what most gets under the skin of their secretary. Some, one hopes, will turn over a new leaf.

More Secretarial, page 37

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SECRETARIAL

Europe's gift of tongues

Increasing demand for bilingual secretaries has opened up fresh opportunities abroad for experienced workers with language skills

As 1992 draws closer, most employment agencies say the demand for secretaries with language skills is increasing. One has only to scan the offers on the Crème de la Crème page in *The Times* to see how true this is.

"Everybody is heading towards Europe," says Christine Moscrop, of the Merrow Employment Agency. "The main demand is from French, German and other foreign companies in the UK who have always needed bilingual secretaries."

"What has changed is that many British and American companies are beginning to realize that languages are becoming increasingly useful because they have a bigger range of clients."

With takeovers on the Continent and increasing City activity, many legal firms are advertising for people with languages and legal experience. Vacancies far outnumber suitable applicants. Bilingual secretaries are required by firms of all kinds engaged in import/export, by architects, advertising companies, merchant banks and other financial institutions.

Opportunities are good overseas, too. Sheila Burgess, Recruitment Consultants, says that Paris is feeling the effect of 1992 even more than London. The major service industries, particularly legal and financial, are looking for British secretaries with fluent French.

Languages must be at least of graduate standard. For candidates with A levels this means a two-year course, with time spent in the appropriate country.

West Kent College in Tonbridge offers such a course (one year for graduates), attracting students from overseas as well as from the UK, which is mutually beneficial. Students are regularly awarded medals by the London Chamber of Commerce.

Fieldwork in the appropriate country is an integral part of the course. This spring, seven left for Paris, four to work for American and French legal firms and three for the Franco-British Chamber of Commerce. Another two went to Unesco.

Students of German work in offices and banks in Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart and Munich.



Parlez-vous français? Bilingual secretaries are much in demand as companies gear up for 1992

Spanish students have placements in Spain.

Many students are offered permanent posts by the firms with which they undertake their fieldwork, including Theodore Goddard, the Paris law firm. One recent student is in Germany with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Her two bosses, one German and one Chinese, do not speak each other's language, and all communication is in English via their secretary.

While most secretarial jobs with languages are based in London and certain large cities, a spring

can be found locally in container and import-export firms.

The language content of a bilingual secretary's job, particularly in the UK, is not always as high as the secretary would wish.

But languages are increasingly useful. "Another language," says Mary Overton, senior management adviser with the Industrial Society, "gives you an edge over other secretaries."

Last year, the society held a conference in association with the European Association of Professional Secretaries (EAPS).

Some secretaries from the Continent complained that too often when British secretaries telephoned, they began the conversation in English. It would be more polite to ask, in the appropriate tongue, "Do you speak English?" and continue from there, they said.

Secretaries all over Europe have a great deal to teach one another.

More information about EAPS is available from the Headrow Business Centre, Terminal 2, Heathrow Airport, Middlesex, TW6 6EU.

Joan Venner

New skill gives documents style

Secretaries in the Eighties faced a minefield of acronyms before they could decide whether they had the necessary skills to apply for a new job, let alone do the job (Geoff Wheelwright writes). Notices such as "Sec req. with WP, WS and DOS experience" in tempting agencies mystified many.

Just when they thought they had trained themselves in every conceivable new word-processing package and were well on top of the acronyms, along comes another one. The letters are DTP - "desktop publishing".

DTP is the business of using computers to produce newspaper or magazine-quality documents using simple desktop computers and high-quality computer printers. Anyone able to use a desktop publishing system properly will be able to take a standard report and turn it into something special through the use of headlines, captions, newspaper-style columns and computer graphics.

Using DTP, a lifeless annual report can be presented in the style of a glossy magazine.

There are a few problems, however. Not the least of which is that many employers expect too much too soon, and for too little. Secretaries are often expected to produce "designer" documents without being given any basic grounding in design or typography.

As people in the general business community begin to become

aware of just how good business documents can look using DTP technology, they will begin to demand that it be introduced in their offices.

Here are a few simple words of advice. Use the documentation included with the DTP software. Send key staff on desktop publishing course and read the course brochures carefully, as some still do not provide any basic design advice.

Employers must understand that desktop-publishing a document takes longer than simple word-processing.

Once the design is established, it can often be re-used for future documents and turn-around times can be improved. There are three basic stages to desktop publishing. The first is keying-in the text, the second is to establish the basic design. This includes setting up the column widths, headlines and picture placement.

The final step is to place the word-processed text into the desktop publishing system and assign type specifications, enter captions and carry out final proofing of document. The completed document is then printed on to a computer printer, most popularly the "laser" printer.

It may sound simple enough, but desktop publishing will require background and skill. If staff need DTP, employers must make sure they are given the necessary instruction before wading in.

More Secretarial, page 39

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SALARY £14,000 + PACKAGE.
PLEASE SEND CVs TO BOX 121

Modus Operandi £14,500

A superb opportunity for a self-motivated, forward-thinking individual has arisen with our client, a major independent force in educational Broadcasting. As PA/Office Manager, you will enjoy organisational challenge and the opportunity to display your effective communication skills and administrative flair. A pro-active approach is vital; besides providing minimal PA support, you will be responsible for setting up new systems, liaising with clients and suppliers, co-ordinating admin procedures and overseeing the smooth running of a busy reception area. Typing 50 wpm with WP literacy requested. Age 24+ with a flexible, committed approach vital. For an opening offering considerable involvement, call 01-493 0713.

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A CAREER IN FASHION £15,000

An exc. opp to get clothes at wholesale price less 20% when organising the Director of this fast expanding fashion co. specialising in design & marketing. A very small secretarial role (only 20hrs), using your high speed (80+ stt), 60 typ and the rest admin. Ideal if you are at least A-Level educated, aged 25-35 and can use your initiative to run the office.

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The opp for growth is endless with this fast expanding co based in the SW1 area. Possibility of travelling with the Head of European Operations & using any foreign language you may have. Your expertise on multinationals & exc. skills of approx 90 stt & 50typ would be an asset. Ideal if you have a thorough command of the English language & aged 25-35.

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Salary £13,500 per annum (early review)

St. Martins Property Corporation Limited seeks 2 mature, motivated Secretaries/PAs to work for the Assistant Executive Directors with responsibility for major property development schemes.

The successful applicants will have good shorthand and typing speeds excellent interpersonal skills and a least 2 years' experience at senior level. They should also be well groomed, organised and have a sense of humour.

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Personnel Administrator
St. Martins Property Corporation Limited
Alderside House, London Bridge
London EC4R 9DT
NO AGENCIES

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Pride in your Work?
£17,000

Eminent charity fundraiser, political adviser and entrepreneurial businessman is looking for a secretary aged 24-34 with high standards.

His dealings with Number Ten, leading figures in the City and media world require a confident telephone manner, faultless presentation and skills of 120/60 (no audio). A sunny personality and a ready smile will ensure his Mayfair based office runs on oiled wheels.

Please telephone Lindsey Brandom on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

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Newly appointed MD of start-up division of major multinational company needs a PA. His job is to establish policy, build the team and provide leadership.

Starting at 8.30am over a cup of coffee and croissant, you will plan the day together. Getting the division off the ground will involve organising the offices, research and lots of forward planning.

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(Rec. Cons.)

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VERY SENIOR
SECRETARY/
ADMINISTRATOR

c.£15,000 plus benefits Mayfair

The Directors of this London branch of a major Japanese pharmaceuticals company run a very caring organisation which greatly values its people. There is an immediate need for a highly intelligent and mature senior secretary who can also mastermind the administration of this busy office.

The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial and word processing skills and at least 15 years experience, coupled with a head for figures to handle bookkeeping, payroll and expenses. Good, clear, spoken and written English is vital.

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Benefits include private health insurance, non-contributory pension and life assurance.

Interviews will be held in Central London.

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Selective Recruitment
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£18K FOR
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Senior Secretaries
17 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB
01-499 0092
(Fax: 01-491 7278)
Recruitment Consultants



The Investors Compensation Scheme, which is administered by the Securities and Investments Board, compensates investors who have lost money as a result of an authorised firm going bust. The staff of the Scheme aim to pay compensation to investors as speedily, with as little formality, and with as much sympathy as possible.

PA Secretary

c£14,500 p.a.

We are looking for a PA Secretary to work for the Chief Executive of this scheme. You should be flexible and have previous experience working at a senior level in a very hectic environment. Your excellent organisational skills and a tactful telephone manner will be used extensively. The successful applicant will have first class secretarial skills, adaptability and initiative gained over at least five years.

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A good all rounder is required to handle this position which is full of variety including lots of telephone work, for which good communication skills are essential, and providing efficient administrative support on the computer system. Good secretarial skills are essential. You will be numerate, flexible, computer literate and must be able to shine in this pressurized environment.

Please send a detailed CV indicating which job interests you, to Paulette Levene, Personnel Officer, Securities and Investments Board, 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3V 3NL by 11th May 1990.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/
PERSONAL ASSISTANTTo Corporate Vice President,
European Operations

SWITZERLAND

AMP is a highly regarded international market leader in the production of sophisticated and technologically advanced electrical/electronic connection devices.

We are now looking for a career orientated, experienced individual to act as the Personal Assistant/Executive Secretary to the Corporate Vice President in charge of our European Operations who is based at Steinhilf, St. Gallen, Switzerland.

You must have excellent communication skills and organisational abilities along with genuine self-confidence, flexibility and first class secretarial skills. Equally important, however, is your formal business training and high degree of self-motivation. A good command of German would be an advantage, but is not essential.

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AMP
Incorporated

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Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE
WORK
SHOPMACKAY for Secretaries
OPEN TUESDAYS 'TIL 7PM

PA TO MD

BUFA, 5 weeks leave, flight discounts, Pension. Arranging internal and external response and liaising with top level directors are just part of your challenging role as indispensable assistant to charming executive within this large international company. SH essential. Call Glynis Ranger.

S/H SEC

BUFA, Pension, LV's, IFSTL. Prestigious international company based in Paddington needs a fun loving, down to earth person to work on a one-to-one basis for the Company Secretary. Organise functions, arrange travel and assist in running the office. Call Barbara Fisher.

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£17,000

Exceptional PA/Sec sought by 2 entrepreneurial Directors of highly successful international Design Co. This demanding role requires a well educated, intelligent person with excellent interpersonal and organising abilities, together with fast rate sec skills. Age 25 - 35.

Call 01-823 2552 or Fax your CV to 01-259 6837

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LITERARY
AGENT
requires a
SECRETARY

If you are in your mid twenties, are a non smoker, have good audio typing, organising skills and an interest in the industry. Write giving brief personal details to:

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London W1V 5DC.

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RECRUITMENTSECRETARY
£16,500 + PERKS
AGE 20+

Prestigious City Director seeks secretary/shorthand WP PA with a lively personality, able to liaise at all levels. Lots of administrative involvement. Call Mrs Hayes 01-247 9701
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WE'LL HELP YOU DEVELOP IT.

The Sales Director of an SW1 based international newsprint producer needs a senior assistant (25-40) with an interest in computers. Your time will be equally divided between administration and secretarial work. You will need to be articulate with good presentation skills as you will be responsible for handling orders and customer queries.

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Senior Secretaries

173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB

01-499 0092

(Fax: 01-491 7278)

Recruitment Consultants

£17k PLUS PRESTIGE PACKAGE FOR
HIGH PROFILE P.A.

An excellent package - including a mortgage subsidy and a bonus - is offered by this S.W.1 based Merchant Bank which specialises in the property field.

This is a prestige position, demanding someone with good social skills, and the other skills it takes to be P.A. to the M.D. - articulacy, good knowledge of London, the presence to attend business meetings (often with Blue Chip Clients), shorthand of 80wpm and an excellent telephone manner. Age: 29-42

Senior Secretaries

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DYNAMIC £16k P.A.
5 WEEKS HOLIDAY

A small and dynamic team in a Canadian Commodities Group need a PA to the MD and two Directors (Age 20's preferred).

The hours are 9-5 and guaranteed to be lively: organising busy executives and making their travel arrangements: using your 90 shorthand and WP skills; and making lots of contacts abroad - languages an asset. The team is growing, the offices are new (and in W.1) - the job is ideal if you have initiative, like the ideal of an international environment and have an excellent telephone manner.

Senior Secretaries

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01-499 0092

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Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY
To MANAGING DIRECTOR

Head Office, Brentwood

Salary c. £15,000

We are looking for a Secretary for our newly appointed Managing Director - Waste Services.

Applicants should possess excellent presentational, organisational and administrative skills, with proven ability in the full range of secretarial duties including audio and word processing and shorthand. You should also hold RSA Stage II typing or an equivalent qualification.

Cleanaway is the largest Company in its field and offers an attractive salary and conditions of employment, including twenty-five days' annual holiday and Company Pension Scheme membership. It is a first class working environment with a recently refurbished Directors' suite of offices in a modern block.

Please send your CV, quoting reference AK/16/90 on the envelope, to: Albert Keeshan, Personnel Officer, Cleanaway Limited, The Drive, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3BE

CLEANAWAY

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Enjoy the speed of working for a new radio station, backed by a major international Co., the new venture will rapidly become a household name at the top and of the London broadcasting network.

Responsibility for efficiently running the office, co-ordinating technical staff and organising the personal life of this young, energetic Assistant Director will be just some of your duties. From time to time you will be asked to take on the responsibility of a mature, determined P.A.

90/50 + WP
Salary £15,000

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Work for a Director of one of the most imaginative property firms in London. Last year they completed work on one of England's most prestigious retail developments and new projects include development within the 'Cultural City of Europe'.

Your Director is renowned for his creative ideas and needs an efficient secretary to organise him. Within this small but fast growing company you will be highly valued. A minimum of 2 years' Director level and your entrepreneurial flair will ensure you an interview.

100/60 + WP
Salary £15,500

GOLDEN SQUARE DIVISION TEL: 287 7788
ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy



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OUR BEST TEMPS
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WE GIVE OUR LONG-STANDING TEMPS THEIR OWN BUSINESS CARDS. THIS SHOWS TEMPS HOW MUCH WE VALUE LOYALTY, AND BOSSES GET A PROPER INTRODUCTION FROM SOMEONE REALLY WORTH HANGING ONTO.

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MICROSOFT Word Secretaries at all levels, copy-typing, 12-14pm Start tomorrow Monday on 01 867 7360 Rec Cons.

TEMPS Tempus Tempus... Do you have the experience we need? We are looking for experienced secretaries, W.P. operators (12 W.A. Machine, WPM 60+) and secretaries for well-known West End and City clients. Please call us for an interview, or fax your CV, without delay, to Bernadette or Rosemary (Rec Cons). Fax No. 01-629 9754. Telephone 01-629 1204.

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STONE

Fabulous opportunity for bright, young Secretaries to join this Multi National Co. at Director level. Excellent career prospects and benefits.

£11,000
Call Heather on
828 2727
TALISMAN
SECRETARIAL

Business Secretary
£20,000

Our client, a highly successful international engineering group and leaders in their field, is restructuring its London based Chairman's office.

On behalf of the Chairman, we are seeking a Business Secretary with first-class secretarial and organisational skills. The successful candidate will be resilient, diplomatic and committed with experience at Chairman or Chief Executive level in an international plc. Age 40+.

Please telephone Nicolette Agnew on 01-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

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MEDICAL
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for a consulting practice. Excellent working conditions. Salary negotiable. CV: Dr Gains, London Bridge Hospital, SE1 2BR.

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
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WAPPING
LONDON
E1 9DD

SECRETARIAL

Individual responses to stress and irritation vary. Something which annoys one person may be treated as a challenge by another. Certain sources of stress in the office can, and should, be eliminated, however, if efficient overall performance is not to be affected.

At the London Secretary Show last year, secretaries were given a list of likely irritations in the office, and asked to state which bothered them most.

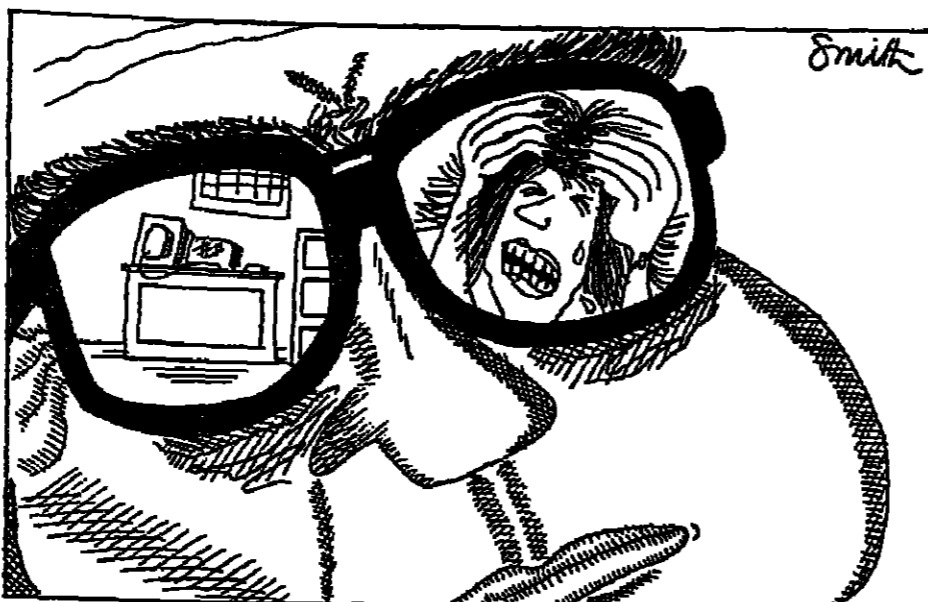
When the responses were analysed, the four top irritations were: constantly being interrupted when they were busy, finding the photocopier jammed or out of paper, trying to fix meetings with people who did not keep their diaries up to date, and being given urgent work just as they were about to go home.

Ginny Tate, of Tate Appointments, agrees with the last. "Some bosses do not plan their day. The secretary may sit doing little from nine to three and then there is a mad rush from three to eight."

A second secretary may work with a group of bosses. Sometimes she is faced with ten urgent demands, and sometimes with nothing. Of course, she ought to be the one to get them together to establish a system of priorities.

At the very base of the list of irritations came sexual harassment. Much has appeared about this in the Press, but Rita Betts, of the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries, says she has never known a secretary who experienced this form of harassment.

If a secretary is to be happy at work, the attitude of the



Talk eases the tension

Communication between boss and employee is at the heart of a profitable solution to office stress, Joan Venner writes

boss is crucial. Failure to delegate can be a common source of grievance. Many bosses insist on dealing with matters which are better left to their secretaries, and some refuse to accept that their secretaries can do more than answer the telephone, take down dictation and make coffee. "I have always done it this way," they maintain.

Stress can also be generated through a poor office environment, by such factors as poor lighting, faulty heating and air-conditioning, flickering

VDU screens, badly designed chairs, and noise from office equipment and phones.

When Reed Employment commissioned a survey on the office environment and its effect on staff, 55 per cent of those interviewed described their job as "very stressful" or "quite stressful".

They complained of lighting which gave them headaches, glare from VDU screens, draughts, soundings, backache caused by chairs with poor support, and sleepiness from overheated offices.

What can be done to relieve these stresses? Mary Overton, a senior management adviser, runs secretarial development courses for the Industrial Society. She says: "If secretaries learn good time-management skills and have a good working relationship with their manager/managers, then a lot of stress will disappear. Secretaries are often their own worst enemies. They bring a lot upon themselves by not liking to say 'no'."

"It all comes down to communication and having a

good understanding of each other's role. Managers rarely have a chance to be trained to use a secretary effectively. The secretary should tell her manager what she can do. The two should be constantly talking and trying to iron out problems. They have got to identify all the things that waste time."

She says that secretaries should be working with their managers and not for them. Secretaries need information, and the most obvious way of getting information is by asking the manager.

Secretaries often tell her: "But he is always so busy." They must, she maintains, learn to be more confident and assertive. Most managers say: "If only secretaries would tell us when they see problems ahead rather than make excuses afterwards for things they have not done."

Many environmental stresses, the Reed survey found, stem from lack of thought and foresight on the part of the employer. Of course, some, such as heating, can be expensive to put right, but other problems are more simply solved.

The secretary should not, however, leave everything to the employer. She can help herself by ensuring that the VDU screen is positioned at a 90-degree angle to the window or source of direct light and by taking frequent short breaks away from the screen. This should prevent visual strain as well as easing visual stress.

The chair causes backache, the secretary should complain and ask for a replacement. Surely this is better than walking out of the job without saying why?

Age of the techno-shock

Anyone returning to office work after even a few years' absence may find their experience transformed by new office technologies (Geoff Wheelwright writes). Typewriters have been replaced by word-processors, terminals have evolved into personal computers, and simple telephones have been developed into telecommunications terminals.

Getting to grips with new technology requires a basic understanding of what each machine does and how it is best used.

Probably the most widespread new addition to the modern office is the facsimile or "fax" machine. This can be described as a "photocopier over the telephone". It allows documents, diagrams, pictures, letters and agreements to be sent via the telephone line, eliminating much of the need for couriers and express post.

To use the fax machine, you dial the number of the receiving machine (either using the fax system's own dialler or an ordinary telephone) and then feed the pages into the system — one by one — much as you would with a photocopier.

Hot on the heels of the fax machine is the personal computer. This is most widely used for word-processing. A programme instructs the computer to accept typed-in information and then sends it over a cable to a computer printer for transfer to paper.

A personal computer's key-



Today's office: Word-processors replace the typewriters

board is much the same as a typewriter's and the instructions, while complicated, are common sense. A word-processor can be anything from a typewriter with a few additional facilities to a complete computer with screen and computer printer.

Typewriters now often include either flat liquid crystal display screens or television-style, full-blown cathode ray tubes, spell-checking facilities, a built-in Thesaurus and even computer disc-drives. These facilities are included on the new range of machines offered by Smith Corona, the typewriter manufacturer.

The office photocopier has

also been evolving. Many are much smaller, but have more facilities. Reducing, enlarging, copying on both sides and even colour photocopying are common options with mainstream photocopiers.

Meanwhile, switchboards and telephone systems have begun to take on the appearance of computer terminals.

Modern telephone systems may come with a screen that tells the operator who is on the telephone, allows them to check information on personal diaries so that appointments can be booked, and to send telephone messages via computerized "electronic mail" systems.

Market Abroad
c£14,000 + bonus
Victoria

France, Germany and Spain will be your main liaison points as you work for the super European Marketing Manager of large international company. As part of the marketing department you will be organising travel, planning meetings, teleconferencing with clients, planning meetings, teleconferencing with clients, planning meetings, teleconferencing with clients.

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High Spirits
£13,000
Age 20-24

Cheer yourself up when you join super drinks company working for one of its European Marketing Executives. He is 30, very busy and always travelling. You will have to be energetic, confident and well organised as you liaise with clients in Europe, organise extensive travel and diary arrangements, set up new systems and act on your own initiative. 50wpm copy typing/good WP.

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EMA ENGINEERS' & MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION
PERSONAL SECRETARY

Starting Salary negotiable up to £15,000

We represent qualified engineers, scientific and managerial staff in industry and seek an experienced and highly skilled secretary to support our Area Officer working from offices just a ten minute stroll from Waterloo Station.

As the Area Officer is often working away from the office the post will suit someone who is self motivated and happy to accept a wide range of responsibilities.

The secretary will be fully involved and need to become familiar with a wide range of issues.

That involvement, coupled with good shorthand, will enable the secretary to produce concise minutes and action notes from meetings attended at various locations.

The post is both demanding and interesting and effective effort will be well rewarded.

For further information telephone John Homer, Administration Manager, EMA on 0832 564131 or apply in writing to Administration Manager, EMA, Station House, Fox Lane North, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9HW by not later than 11th May 1990.

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR

c.£13,000 (Pay award pending)
(Maternity leave cover approx 6 months from June)

The Law Society is the governing body for Solicitors in England and Wales. It is led by a Council of 75 members.

We now seek an experienced Administrator to work as part of the small team that services the Council and related Committees.

You will need initiative and highly developed communication skills, organising tact, discretion and diplomacy in handling all administrative matters, including the processing of Committee nominations, organising the Council diary, maintaining statistical information and helping to administer the election system for Council members. In addition you will also act as Personal Assistant to a senior member of the team.

A secretarial background is essential as excellent Audio/VP skills are required (minimum 60 wpm, preferably on Wang VS) together with a knowledge of computer databases and a flexible approach to work and the ability to maintain high standards under deadline pressures.

We wish you to start early June for a hand over period (the permanent postholder expects to go on maternity leave at the end of June). You will have the opportunity to apply for permanent positions advertised, at the end of the 6 month period.

Interested applicants are welcome to contact Liz Kwok on 071-320 5736, current postholder, for more information.

Please send full CV and covering letter to the Personnel Manager, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. Closing date for applications is Friday 11th May 1990.

The Law Society is committed to equal opportunities.



01-584 3222
TM
01-584 3222

CHAIRMAN - ARTS
c.£20,000

The Chairman of a well known and very prestigious European Arts company is looking for a secretary/Executive Assistant who can work at top level. You will be dealing with politicians and owners of big arts collections throughout Europe. The successful candidate, for this extremely senior secretarial position, will have an excellent secretarial background and skills, as well as French, German or Italian. Groomed presentation and manner and the ability to act fast and succinctly in any given situation are essential.

Age 20-35 Speeds 100/80

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
15,500 + BONUS

This friendly and upmarket property development company, with superb offices in Knightsbridge are looking for a bright PA/Secretary. Team spirit, a lively personality and a desire to get totally involved are essential.

Age 20-24 Speeds 100/60

Quality Street
c£19,000

Efficiency, quality and corporate image are what counts in this '5 Star' Docklands development company. The Marketing and Communications Director needs a professional PA with excellent secretarial skills (100/60), a calm manner, ability to work under pressure and a willingness to dedicate yourself to the continued success of this £multi-million Canadian backed company. Deadlines to meet, vital documents to produce, top level people to contact; these will be just part of your vital contribution to this exciting megadevelopment project. Age 25-40. Please call Louise Haverall on 01-437 6632.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

KING & TOBEN

RECEPTION DIVISION

Expanding news organisation in W1 require a bright young receptionist for a front-line position. Excellent prospects and involvement. Switchboard training given but some reception experience preferred.

CITY SLICKER?

Leading firm of International Lawyers are looking for a bright young front-line receptionist. If you have personality and style and are interested in a challenging, varied role this will suit you. Receptionist experience not required. Please call King and Toben Recruitment Consultants on 01-629 9648

King & Toben Tel: 01-629 9648

KING & TOBEN

European Roadshows

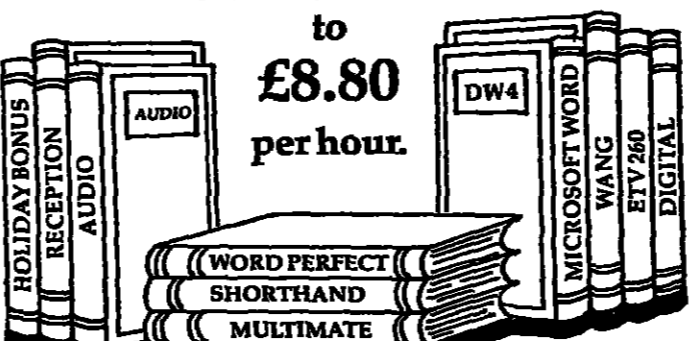
French shorthand

£15,000

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to work for Director of European Marketing in highly successful City based investment house. As PA to a brilliant delegator, you will get fully involved in all aspects of setting up their European roadshows, assisting in the marketing of funds and talking to their clients. If you have 80wpm French shorthand, 50wpm typing/wp, please call Elizabeth Williamson on 01-256 5018.

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TEMPORARILY ON THE SHELF?



WEST END 437 6032
CITY 256 5018
PICCADILLY CIRCUS LIVERPOOL STREET

HOBSTONES
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Wheeler Dealer?
£17,000

The most exciting job of the year ensuring variety, pace and responsibility! We need a go getting young secretary for the MD of Equities in a leading firm of City Money Brokers.

No two days will ever be the same as you work in the dealing room organising the MD's day, arranging and attending client entertainment as well as providing administrative back up to 20 dealers! The pace is hectic requiring someone with energy and enthusiasm.

The ideal candidate will be aged 20-25 with a few years' secretarial experience and speeds of 90/60/wp.

Please telephone Anna Martin on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY/PA for Group MD

c.£20,000
A long established International Commodity and Finance house in EC3 seeks a first class, bi-lingual secretary/pa. The successful applicant will be fluent in French and take shorthand in both French and English. Sound senior level experience, good communication skills, tact and a willing manner are important.

Duties will include provision of a full secretarial service to the Group MD and his Executive Assistant, plus ensuring the smooth running of the office. The position offers a high degree of responsibility, involvement and liaison at all levels both internal and external.

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Recent legislation has made the letting of property an attractive business proposition once again

The time to take in a lodger

When the Environment Department launched a campaign last week to encourage householders to take in a lodger, it brought along a real life example. Christopher Chope, the junior housing minister, introduced Robert Somerville, who lives in a maisonette in south-west London, and his lodger, Paul Dixon, at a press conference, indicating that the lodger has been considered an almost extinct breed for 20 years.

The reason was the rent controls that were introduced in the 1960s to prevent exploitation of tenants by landlords.

The 1988 Housing Act lifted those controls, enabling the householder and the lodger to work out an informal agreement between them and — important for the householder — denying the lodger security of tenure.

Under their arrangement, Mr Dixon has a room and shares the bathroom and the kitchen, paying £35 a week, and this includes all bills except telephone and community charge.

Mr Somerville said: "Our arrangement works well, but I would warn people not to expect a perfect lodger."

Mr Dixon responded: "I would encourage people to take lodgers, but you have to expect problems with the landlord."

Dedicated questioning elicited the fact that the two, who otherwise

get on well, find an occasional battleground in the kitchen over the piles of dishes waiting to be washed up.

Mr Chope, with the practical experience of being a lodger and somebody who has taken in a lodger, is enthusiastic in recommending the renting out of a spare room. "It can help both the householder and the person

requiring accommodation," he said. "It provides extra cash to help with bills while providing a home for someone wanting to come to London, or any city, to work or study, who often finds it hard to get a room."

He called on organizations to set up registers listing rooms to let and people wanting rooms, and showed that the department has

already answered the call by setting up a board in the foyer.

"We believe there are tens of thousands of rooms that could be used for lodgers, which would help to ease the difficulties of finding a room, and would certainly help job mobility," Mr Chope said.

One of the main obstacles in the way of providing "digs" has been the fear that the lodger will not

move out when requested. A booklet, *Want to Rent a Room?*, published by the department and the Welsh Office to explain the system, makes it clear that changes in the law mean that "if someone lives in your home and shares accommodation with you, he or she has no right to stay on when you want him or her to go".

It says: "The person sharing is in the same position as a lodger. The arrangements can easily be ended, as your lodger has no legal rights to stay after the agreed period."

In the past, too, some mortgage lenders were against the letting of spare rooms, but now they do not object as long as they are informed. The householder does not normally need planning permission or other official approval unless the intention is to take several people in.

There is one thing the householder must remember: he or she must add any profit from a lodger to other income, and income tax will be payable if the total of taxable income exceeds the tax allowances. There is the possibility of setting expenses against income but the general rule is that only those expenses incurred "wholly and exclusively" for the purpose of the lodgings can be deducted from income before tax.

These could include the cost of food if provided, and a proportion of household expenses such as heating, water rates, insurance and repairs.

The new boom for landlords

Estate agents are reporting vigorous activity in the rental market in London and the regions while residential sales remain beleaguered. New agencies specializing in rentals have sprung up, and established firms, including Knight Frank & Rutley and W.A. Ellis, are opening or expanding their rental side. Knight Frank & Rutley, already represented in London Docklands, has recently taken over Orr Ewing Associates to extend its lettings coverage into central London.

Hampton's residential lettings division says in its quarterly survey that many British executives are joining international applicants seeking the best-quality rental accommodation in regional centres. This is partly because high interest rates are still deterring potential investors from buying, and

partly because of better communications and the flexibility adopted by national companies "who are quite happy to dispatch their employees to different areas of the country for training or experience for up to three years".

The trend has been reflected in the number of longer lets returning after a panic period, during which both landlords, waiting for a purchase offer, and tenants, waiting for a change in interest rates, demanded tenancies of about six months. Hampton's regional offices confirm that landlords are resigned to a longer wait for buyers and are willing to look at one-year tenancies, and individual and corporate clients realize lower interest rates are some time off.

In London, by contrast, Hampton's says more movement of individuals throughout

cities has reduced the tenancy term, often to six months. There is also an identifiable minority sector, the "between houses" people, reluctant to buy at current interest rates who opt instead for a six-month to one-year tenancy in an unfurnished central London family home.

Farley's rental department, in Kensington, says that although business has never been better, much of its time is taken up by community charge difficulties. One problem is that landlords are liable to up to twice the charge on empty flats. The company says: "They need a fast rental and are prepared to negotiate on the price."

The Association of Residential Letting Agents is convinced that the private rental sector, now taking a substantial part of the overall housing market, is back to stay.



Cottages are not normally associated with London's fashionable Knightsbridge, but Regency Cottage is a fine and rare property in Rutland Gardens, a private cul-de-sac. The cottage, built on two floors, has three bedrooms, two reception rooms, a two-bedroom staff annexe, a garden at the front, a courtyard at the rear and private parking. The agent, Chesterfield, is asking £1.1 million for the freehold, pointing out that the community charge in the Borough of Westminster is only £195, almost the lowest in the country.

IN THE MARKET

■ The Firs, a Queen Anne farmhouse in Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire, was sold by auction through Bidwells, of Cambridge, for £500 exactly 100 years ago. It is on the market again through the same agents, with a rather different price — £300,000. The four-bedroom house has five acres and in the grounds there is an early 18th-century timber-framed barn, which, with permission, could be converted into an office, a studio or a separate house.

■ Central London buyers pay a premium for period and new houses. Number 16, Cottesmore Gardens, Kensington, is a new house, a rare thing in the area, with

the period look of its town-house terrace neighbours and the latest construction and insulation standards. The 5,800 sq ft house has a 34ft double-aspect drawing room, a dining room library, a conservatory, a family room, a main bedroom suite and four other bedrooms. Beauchamp Estates and Knight Frank & Rutley want £3 million.

■ The walled gardens at Wadsworth House, Dartmouth, Devon, were laid out between the wars by Viscount Chaplin, who brought rare plants from overseas. They adorn the eight acres of the former 11th-century five-bedroom Georgian house. Jackson-Stops & Staff at Exeter is asking more than £600,000.

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